

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0122

Hunting and fishing access-reliable funding.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Western, Clausen, Larsen
and Walters and Senator(s) Baldwin

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; increasing conservation
2 stamp fees; establishing a new account within the game and
3 fish fund; depositing fee increases as specified;
4 authorizing expenditure of fee as specified; imposing game
5 and fish commission reporting requirements on specified
6 account expenditures; and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-501 by creating a new subsection
11 (h) and 23-2-306(a)(intro) and by creating a new subsection
12 (e) are amended to read:

13

14 **23-1-501. Game and fish fund.**

15

1 (h) An account within the game and fish fund is
2 created. The portion of the revenues collected as specified
3 under W.S. 23-2-306(e) shall be deposited into the account.
4 Revenues deposited in the account created under this
5 subsection are continuously appropriated to the commission
6 and all earnings on funds in the account shall remain in
7 the account. The commission shall use revenues in the
8 account only as specified in this subsection and subject to
9 the following requirements:

10
11 (i) Of the revenues collected, not less than
12 eighty-five percent (85%) shall be used annually by the
13 commission for the purchase of access easements or for
14 other agreements to provide public access to federal and
15 state and school trust lands within the state that are
16 difficult to access or inaccessible by the public for
17 hunting and fishing purposes. The commission shall notify
18 the appropriate boards of county commissioners in writing
19 before purchasing any access easements or entering into any
20 agreements under this paragraph and shall hold public
21 hearings at the request of any board of county commissions;

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1 (ii) Of the revenues collected, not greater than
2 fifteen percent (15%) shall be used annually to provide for
3 wildlife conservation efforts related to the transportation
4 system, including signage, wildlife corridors, wildlife
5 crossings and game fences;

6
7 (iii) As part of the annual report required
8 under subsection (e) of this section, the commission shall
9 report to the legislature on all expenditures pursuant to
10 this subsection during the preceding fiscal year.

11
12 **23-2-306. Conservation stamp; exemptions.**

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14 (a) Subject to subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this
15 section and the applicable fee under W.S. 23-1-701, each
16 sportsman licensed under W.S. 23-2-101, 23-2-107 or
17 23-2-201 shall purchase a single conservation stamp for
18 ~~twelve dollars (\$12.00)~~ twenty-one dollars (\$21.00) which
19 shall be valid for the time period specified in commission
20 rules not to exceed twelve (12) months. The stamp or an
21 authorization signifying purchase of the stamp shall be in
22 the possession of any person exercising rights under any
23 fishing or hunting license issued pursuant to W.S.

1 23-2-101, 23-2-107 or 23-2-201. Holders of special limited
2 fishing permits issued under W.S. 23-2-207 and holders of
3 licenses only under W.S. 23-1-302(q), 23-2-101(j)(v) and
4 (vi), 23-2-201(d)(vi), (vii) and (ix), 23-2-201(f) and
5 23-2-201(g) are exempt from the provisions of this section
6 when exercising hunting or fishing privileges provided
7 under those specific licenses. Except as provided in
8 subsection (e) of this section, revenues collected from the
9 sale of each stamp under this subsection shall be deposited
10 as follows:

11

12 (e) Of the twenty-one dollars (\$21.00) collected
13 under subsection (a) of this section, nine dollars (\$9.00)
14 collected from the sale of each stamp shall be deposited
15 into the account created under W.S. 23-1-501(h).

16

17 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2021.

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19

(END)