HOUSE BILL NO. HB0203

Small business relief.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Sherwood, Banks and Duncan and Senator(s) Cooper, Furphy, Rothfuss and Wasserburger

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to the emergency expenses of government; authorizing an emergency governmental program related to economic development and business relief as specified; providing an appropriation; providing a sunset date for the created emergency program; providing rulemaking authority; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1.

(a) As used in this section:

(i) "Council" means the Wyoming business council;

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(ii) "Critically impacted industry" means the tourism, leisure, hospitality, retail or restaurant trades, as further specified by rule of the council;

(iii) "Eligible business" means a business that:

(A) Is independently owned and operated;

(B) Is headquartered in Wyoming or has its principal operations located in Wyoming; and

(C) On March 1, 2020, had employed fifty (50) full-time employees or less.

(iv) "Principal operations located in Wyoming" means:

(A) More than fifty percent (50%) of a business's primary work is located in Wyoming and not less than sixty percent (60%) of the business's employees are employed in Wyoming; or
(B) Not less than sixty percent (60%) of the business's payroll is paid to individuals residing in Wyoming.

(b) The Wyoming business interruption stipend program is hereby created. The Wyoming business council shall administer this temporary program to provide eligible businesses in critically impacted industries with funds to alleviate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Stipends awarded under this section shall:

(i) Not be awarded until an eligible business submits, and the council approves, an application. The application shall be developed by the council and shall require each applicant to certify that the business is an eligible business as defined by this section and that knowingly making a false statement to the council on the application is prohibited and may result in the applicant being required to repay all funds awarded under this section;

(ii) Be conditioned upon the eligible business certifying to the council that the eligible business has
incurred financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19
pandemic;

(iii) In no event exceed fifty thousand dollars
($50,000.00);

(iv) Be made only with funds appropriated from
the legislative stabilization reserve account by this act.
No other funds of any kind and from any source shall be
expended on the payment of stipends awarded under this
section.

(c) The council shall promulgate any emergency and
regular rules necessary to administer the program
authorized by this section.

(d) The attorney general shall review in writing the
legality of the program and any rules established for the
program authorized by this section.

(e) No expenditure of funds shall be made under this
section except in accordance with state and federal laws,
regulations and orders.
(f) The council may conduct and contract for random audits of eligible businesses receiving stipends under this section to ensure awarded funds are expended in compliance with state and federal law.

(g) There is appropriated to the Wyoming business council one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000.00) from the legislative stabilization reserve account for purposes of administering the Wyoming business interruption stipend program. This appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2022. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2022.

(h) The program created by this section shall terminate on December 31, 2021.
Section 2. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.