

Bill No.: HB0051 **Effective:** **Immediately**

LSO No.: 21LSO-0106

Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0082

Chapter No.: 155

Prime Sponsor: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Interim Committee

Catch Title: **Meat processing programs.**

Subject: Wyoming meat processing expansion grant program.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This act creates the Wyoming meat processing expansion grant program, which provides for cost sharing to eligible businesses to address COVID-19 related problems by:
 - Planning, constructing, expanding and maintaining meat processing facilities;
 - Upgrading technology in meat processing facilities;
 - Providing workforce training; and
 - Converting facilities from custom or state inspected to state or federally inspected facilities.
- The following apply to the cost sharing program:
 - A business must submit an application, with information as requested by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (Department);
 - No award shall exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per business;
 - Awards shall be made only with funds from the federal CARES Act or subsequent similar federal enactment for a similar purpose;
 - Awards shall be made on a first-come first-served basis;
 - Any award shall require a fifty percent (50%) contribution from the business;
 - Any funds received under the program shall be spent only on facilities or improvements physically located within the state of Wyoming.
- The act creates a definition and requirements for an "eligible business" including:
 - An independently owned and operated business;
 - Headquartered in Wyoming, or has its principal operations in Wyoming;
 - Has or can acquire the means, knowledge and capability to plan, construct and maintain a new meat processing facility or upgrade equipment within an existing meat processing facility;
 - Is in good standing with the Secretary of State and is a new or existing business.
- The act requires the Department to promulgate necessary rules to administer the program.
- The act requires the attorney general to review the legality of the program and rules of the program.

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- The act requires that all expenditures of funds pursuant to the bill be in accordance with state and federal law and regulations.
- The act authorizes the Department to use program funding to conduct or contract for appropriate audits to ensure compliance with the program and state and federal law.
- The act appropriates an amount to be determined by the legislature from any federal CARES Act funds to be used for cost sharing for meat processing by agriculture businesses.
- The act provides several requirements for the appropriation, including that it shall be used only for the indicated purposes and that funds shall revert as provided by law.
- The program created by the act terminates on December 30, 2022.

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