

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0138

Wyoming gaming commission amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the Wyoming gaming commission; amending
2 the composition, qualifications, salaries, officers, duties
3 and powers of the Wyoming gaming commission; continuing the
4 liaisons to the commission; making conforming amendments;
5 repealing provisions; providing for appointments and
6 terminating terms of existing appointments; providing an
7 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 11-25-101, 11-25-104(a) and (b) and
12 11-25-201(d) are amended to read:

13

14 **11-25-101. Wyoming gaming commission created;**
15 **composition; qualifications; personal or private interest;**
16 **salaries; officers; terms; vacancies; liaisons.**

1

2 (a) The Wyoming gaming commission is created. ~~to be~~
3 ~~composed of nine (9) persons who have resided in the state~~
4 ~~for four (4) years and are qualified electors of Wyoming.~~

5 The commission shall consist of five (5) members appointed
6 by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the
7 senate in accordance with W.S. 28-12-101 through 28-12-103.

8

9 (b) Each member of the commission shall have not less
10 than five (5) years of professional experience. At least
11 (1) member shall be an enrolled member of the Northern
12 Arapaho or Eastern Shoshone Indian tribe.

13

14 (c) Each member of the commission shall receive an
15 annual salary to be paid in equal monthly installments in
16 the same manner that other state salaries are paid.

17

18 (d) Biennially the members shall elect from among
19 their number a chairman and a deputy chairman who shall
20 serve in these offices for a period of two (2) years.

21

22 (e) Upon the expiration of the term of any member,
23 the member may be reappointed or a successor shall be

1 appointed for a term of six (6) years, except in case of a
2 vacancy. Each member shall hold office until a successor is
3 appointed and qualified. The governor may remove any member
4 as provided in W.S. 9-1-202.

5
6 (f) Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the
7 governor in accordance with W.S. 28-12-101.

8
9 (g) Each member, within thirty (30) days after notice
10 of appointment and before commencement of the member's
11 duties, shall take, subscribe and file with the secretary
12 of state the oath of office prescribed by the constitution
13 of this state.

14
15 (h) No member of the commission or family member of a
16 member, as defined in W.S. 9-13-102(a)(v), shall own or
17 have any personal or private interest in any activity
18 regulated by the commission or in any animal participating
19 in a pari-mutuel event.

20
21 (j) One (1) senator appointed by the president of the
22 senate, one (1) representative appointed by the speaker of
23 the house and one (1) person appointed by the governor

1 shall serve as ex officio nonvoting liaisons to the
2 commission. The legislative liaisons shall serve two (2)
3 year terms but are eligible for reappointment and may be
4 removed by the officer appointing the member. The
5 gubernatorial liaison shall serve for the term of office of
6 the governor and may be removed by the governor.
7 Legislative liaisons shall be paid salary, per diem and
8 mileage as provided in W.S. 28-5-101 when attending
9 meetings of the commission.

10
11 **11-25-104. Gaming commission; director; employees;**
12 **meetings; quorum; records; licenses generally.**

13
14 (a) The commission ~~shall annually elect from its~~
15 ~~membership a president and vice president, and~~ may employ a
16 director who has a working knowledge of ~~pari-mutuel~~
17 ~~betting, horse racing and other~~ the forms of gaming
18 regulated by the commission to oversee the administrative
19 duties of the commission, or an executive secretary, or
20 both. The director may be retained on a yearly basis or for
21 the racing season only as determined by the commission.
22 Salary for the director or executive secretary shall be
23 determined by the commission with the consent of the

1 personnel division. The commission ~~may also~~ is authorized
2 to employ other ~~personnel required to carry out~~ persons as
3 may be necessary to enable it to perform the duties imposed
4 upon it by this act and to designate the duties of
5 employees. The state shall provide the commission with
6 offices, equipment and facilities as may be necessary for
7 the performance of its duties.

8
9 (b) The commission shall ~~hold an annual fall meeting~~
10 ~~in Wyoming and shall hold special~~ be subject to all of the
11 following:

12
13 (i) The commission shall hold meetings at ~~such~~
14 times and places within Wyoming as the majority of the
15 members determine; ~~:-~~

16
17 (ii) A majority of the commission constitutes a
18 quorum and a majority vote of a quorum may act for the
19 commission; ~~:-~~

20
21 (iii) Any investigation, inquiry or hearing that
22 the commission has power to hold may be held by or before
23 any commissioner, or an employee of the commission acting

1 in the capacity of a hearing officer, when an order
2 authorizing that action is entered in the records of the
3 commission, and any such investigation, inquiry or hearing
4 when approved and confirmed by the commission shall be the
5 investigation, inquiry or hearing of the commission. No
6 finding or order of the commission shall be effective
7 without the concurrence of a majority of the commission;

8
9 (iv) The secretary or director of the commission
10 shall keep a record of the proceedings of the commission
11 which is open at all times for public inspection;—

12
13 (v) Legislative liaisons shall be considered
14 members of the governing body of the commission for
15 purposes of attending executive sessions held pursuant to
16 W.S. 16-4-405(a) only.

17
18 **11-25-201. Pari-mutuel permits; fees and reports;**
19 **disposition of funds; enforcement of provisions.**

20
21 (d) All sums paid to the commission under this act
22 except contributions from permittees to the breeder award
23 fund, amounts paid under paragraphs (b)(iii) and (iv) of

1 this section, fines and penalties shall be credited to the
2 pari-mutuel account which shall be used by the commission
3 for the payment of all expenses incurred in enforcing this
4 act. On a quarterly basis, the commission shall transfer
5 amounts within the account in excess of one million five
6 hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) to the state
7 treasurer for credit to the legislative stabilization
8 reserve account. All fines and penalties collected under
9 this act shall be paid to the state treasurer and credited
10 as provided in W.S. 8-1-109. The state treasurer shall pay
11 out of the account all warrants drawn by the state auditor,
12 upon vouchers issued and signed by the ~~president,~~
13 ~~vice-president~~ chairman, vice chairman, director or
14 ~~executive~~ secretary of the commission. The commission shall
15 keep an accurate and true account of all funds received and
16 all vouchers issued by the commission. All funds received
17 and all vouchers issued by the commission shall be audited
18 at least biennially by the director of the state department
19 of audit or his designee and a copy of the audit shall be
20 delivered within thirty (30) days after completion to the
21 governor and the commission. The costs of the audit shall
22 be borne by the commission. ~~The members of the commission~~
23 ~~shall receive per diem and mileage as provided in W.S.~~

1 ~~33-1-302(a)(vii), and compensation of fifty dollars~~
2 ~~(\$50.00) for each day during which they are actually~~
3 ~~engaged in the discharge of their duties. The total~~
4 ~~expenses incurred by the commission shall not exceed the~~
5 ~~total amount in the pari-mutuel account.~~

6
7 **Section 2.** W.S. 11-25-103 and 11-25-104(c) and (d)
8 are repealed.

9
10 **Section 3.**

11
12 (a) The president of the Wyoming gaming commission
13 and four (4) other members of the Wyoming gaming commission
14 designated by the governor on or before the effective date
15 of this act, or their successors in the event of a vacancy
16 or the expiration of a member's term, shall comprise the
17 Wyoming gaming commission until February 28, 2026.

18
19 (b) Except as provided for the members specified in
20 subsection (a) of this section, the terms of the Wyoming
21 gaming commission members appointed under W.S. 11-25-103
22 prior to the effective date of this act shall terminate on
23 the effective date of this act.

1

2 (c) The governor shall submit appointments or
3 reappointments to the Wyoming gaming commission by the date
4 specified in W.S. 28-12-101(a)(ii) during the 2026 budget
5 session.

6

7 (d) Notwithstanding W.S. 11-25-101(e), as created in
8 section 1 of this act, the terms of appointments to the
9 Wyoming gaming commission specified by subsection (c) of
10 this section shall commence on March 1, 2026, with one (1)
11 of the appointments appointed to a term of two (2) years,
12 two (2) of the appointments appointed to a term of four (4)
13 years, and two (2) appointed to a term of six (6) years, as
14 designated by the governor.

15

16 **Section 4.** There is authorized five (5) full-time
17 positions for the members of the Wyoming gaming commission
18 under W.S. 11-25-101, as amended by section 1 of this act.
19 There is appropriated nine hundred sixty-five thousand
20 dollars (\$965,000.00) from the pari-mutuel account to the
21 Wyoming gaming commission for purposes of providing
22 salaries and benefits to the members of the Wyoming gaming
23 commission under W.S. 11-25-101, as amended by section 1 of

1 this act. This appropriation shall be for the period
2 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
3 June 30, 2026. This appropriation shall not be transferred
4 or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,
5 unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall
6 revert as provided by law on June 30, 2026. It is the
7 intent of the legislature that this appropriation be
8 doubled and included in the Wyoming gaming commission's
9 standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal
10 biennium.

11

12 **Section 5.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

13

14

(END)