

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0034

Firefighters-retirement plans.

Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to compensation and benefits; authorizing
2 firefighters to participate in retirement system plans as
3 specified; providing appropriations; requiring rulemaking;
4 specifying implementation; and providing for effective
5 dates.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-3-402(a)(xviii) and (xxv) is
10 amended to read:

11

12 **9-3-402. Definitions.**

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14 (a) As used in this article:

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1 (xviii) "Law enforcement officer" or "officer"
2 means any member who is a county sheriff, deputy county
3 sheriff, municipal police officer, duly authorized
4 investigator of the Wyoming livestock board meeting the
5 specifications of W.S. 7-2-101(a)(iv)(E), duly authorized
6 personnel of the Wyoming gaming commission meeting the
7 specifications of W.S. 7-2-101(a)(iv)(P), investigator
8 employed by the Wyoming state board of outfitters and
9 professional guides meeting the specifications of W.S.
10 7-2-101(a)(iv)(J), Wyoming correctional officer, probation
11 and parole agent employed by the Wyoming department of
12 corrections, Wyoming law enforcement academy instructor,
13 full-time state park ranger, University of Wyoming campus
14 police officer, community college police officer, detention
15 officer, ~~or~~ dispatcher for law enforcement agencies or any
16 person employed on a full-time basis as a correctional
17 forestry crew supervisor, correctional crew supervisor or
18 correctional forestry crew manager by the Wyoming state
19 forestry division of the office of state lands and
20 investments or any other agency;

21

22 (xxv) "Firefighter member" means:

23

1 (A) Any employee of a Wyoming national
2 guard fire department crash and rescue unit employed on a
3 full-time basis for firefighting and rescue operations
4 within the department; and

5

6 (B) Any person employed on a full-time
7 basis in a wildland firefighting occupation by any state
8 agency.

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10 **Section 2.** There is appropriated one hundred
11 eighty-one thousand dollars (\$181,000.00) from the general
12 fund to the office of state lands and investments for
13 retirement contributions made pursuant to this act. This
14 appropriation shall be for the period beginning July 1,
15 2026 and ending June 30, 2028. This appropriation shall not
16 be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
17 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
18 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
19 2028. It is the intent of the legislature that this
20 appropriation be included in the standard budget for the
21 office of state lands and investments for the immediately
22 succeeding fiscal biennium.

23

1 **Section 3.**

2

3 (a) The Wyoming retirement board and the office of
4 state lands and investments shall promulgate all rules
5 necessary to implement this act.

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7 (b) Coverage of persons employed on a full-time basis
8 as a correctional forestry crew supervisor, correctional
9 crew supervisor, correctional forestry crew manager or in a
10 wildland firefighting occupation by the Wyoming state
11 forestry division of the office of state lands and
12 investments or any other state agency, as required by
13 section 1 of this act, shall commence on July 1, 2026,
14 unless those persons elect to continue participation in the
15 Wyoming Retirement Act as a general member. An election
16 shall be made by providing notice to the Wyoming retirement
17 board not later than April 30, 2026. Once an election is
18 made it shall not be rescinded. Service credit in any other
19 retirement plan administered by the Wyoming retirement
20 board, other than previous credit as a firefighter member
21 or law enforcement officer member, shall not be included as
22 service credit as a firefighter member or law enforcement
23 member under this act.

1

2 **Section 4.**

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4 (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this
5 section, this act is effective July 1, 2026.

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(b) Sections 3 and 4 of this act are 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.

11

12 (END)