

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0119

No foreign law in Wyoming.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Rodriguez-Williams, Hoeft and Webber and Senator(s) Hutchings and Laursen, D

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the common law, statutes and rules of
2 construction; limiting the application and use of foreign
3 law under Wyoming law; specifying exceptions to a change of
4 venue in civil actions; providing legislative findings;
5 making conforming amendments; providing definitions; and
6 providing for an effective date.

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

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10 **Section 1.** W.S. 8-1-111 is created to read:

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12 **8-1-111. Limitations on the application of foreign**
13 **law.**

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1 (a) As used in this section, "foreign law" means any
2 law, legal code or legal system of a jurisdiction outside
3 of any state or territory of the United States, including
4 the law, legal code or legal system of any international
5 organization or international tribunal.

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7 (b) The legislature finds that the application of
8 foreign law shall be circumscribed when the application of
9 foreign law would violate the fundamental liberties, rights
10 and privileges guaranteed by the United States constitution
11 and the Wyoming constitution, including but not limited to
12 equal protection, due process of the laws, the free
13 exercise of religion, the freedoms of speech and the press,
14 the right of privacy and the right of marriage.

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16 (c) Any ruling or decision of a state court,
17 arbitration panel, tribunal or administrative agency of
18 Wyoming that is based, in whole or in part, on foreign law
19 shall be void and unenforceable if the ruling or decision
20 allows the application of any foreign law that denies the
21 parties the fundamental liberties, rights and privileges
22 guaranteed under the United States constitution and the
23 Wyoming constitution.

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2 (d) The limitation in subsection (c) of this section
3 shall not be construed to:

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5 (i) Limit the application of the common law as
6 specified in W.S. 8-1-101;

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8 (ii) Limit the application of the law of any
9 federally recognized Indian tribe whose reservations are
10 located in Wyoming, in accordance with state, tribal and
11 federal law;

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13 (iii) Disapprove or abrogate any existing
14 opinion of the Wyoming supreme court;

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16 (iv) Limit adjudication of ecclesiastical
17 matters of a religious organization, including the
18 selection, appointment, discipline or removal of clergy or
19 the adoption, amendment or interpretation of religious
20 doctrine;

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1 (v) Apply to any person that voluntarily agrees
2 to be subjected to foreign law or to the jurisdiction of a
3 foreign court;

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5 (vi) Apply where federal law preempts state law,
6 including obligations under treaties or international
7 agreements;

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9 (vii) Impair any contract or other agreement
10 entered into by two (2) or more persons.

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12 **Section 2.** W.S. 1-7-103(a) and by creating a new
13 subsection (d) is amended to read:

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15 1-7-103. Change of venue in civil actions;
16 limitation.

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18 (a) For any civil action brought in an incorrect
19 venue, the district court may, on its own or upon motion of
20 the parties, order the action to be transferred to a court
21 that would be a proper venue, except as provided by
22 subsection (d) of this section.

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1 (d) No court shall transfer any civil action to a
2 proper venue under this section if the transfer would
3 result in the application of foreign law as defined by W.S.
4 8-1-111(a) that would violate or likely violate the
5 fundamental liberties, rights and privileges of the parties
6 guaranteed under the United States constitution or the
7 Wyoming constitution.

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9 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

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(END)