

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0150

Wyoming business council-evaluation and reform.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Geringer, Byron, Davis,
Filer, Fornstrom, Lawley, Thayer and
Williams and Senator(s) Barlow, Brennan,
Crago, Love and Olsen

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of the government;
2 creating a task force; specifying duties of the task force
3 in evaluating the Wyoming business council; specifying
4 additional ex officio members of the Wyoming business
5 council board; specifying duties of the Wyoming business
6 council; requiring reports; providing appropriations; and
7 providing for an effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-12-103(a) is amended to read:

12

1 **9-12-103. Wyoming business council; creation;**
2 **composition; compensation; termination; meetings; surety**
3 **bonds; fiscal control.**

4
5 (a) There is created the Wyoming business council.
6 The council is a body corporate operating as a state
7 instrumentality operated solely for the public benefit. As
8 such it shall have, and is hereby vested with, the powers
9 and duties conferred in this chapter. Beginning March 1,
10 2022, it shall be governed by a board of directors
11 consisting of thirteen (13) voting directors, appointed by
12 the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The
13 governor shall be a member and cochairman of the board, but
14 shall not vote. The appointed directors shall have
15 demonstrated leadership and business expertise. An equal
16 number of directors shall be appointed to initial terms of
17 one (1), two (2) and three (3) years. Thereafter, directors
18 shall serve for terms of three (3) years. No appointed
19 director shall serve more than two (2) successive three (3)
20 year terms. If a vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint
21 a successor in accordance with W.S. 28-12-101. The governor
22 may remove any board member he appoints for cause and shall
23 remove any director who fails to attend three (3)

1 consecutive regular meetings of the council. No appointed
2 council member shall send a designee to attend a council
3 meeting nor vote by proxy. The board shall select one (1)
4 of its members to act as cochairman of the board. The
5 board shall retain a chief executive officer. The chief
6 executive officer serves at the pleasure of the board. All
7 of the appointed directors shall be appointed at large and
8 at least twelve (12) of the appointed directors shall be
9 residents of Wyoming. In addition to the appointed voting
10 members, there shall be one (1) ex officio nonvoting member
11 appointed by the president of the senate and one (1) ex
12 officio nonvoting member appointed by the speaker of the
13 house of representatives.

14
15 **Section 2.**

16
17 (a) There is created the Wyoming business council
18 strategic advisory task force to consist of the following
19 members:

20
21 (i) The governor or the governor's designee;
22

1 (ii) Two (2) members of the house of
2 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
3 representatives. One (1) member appointed under this
4 paragraph shall be designated by the speaker of the house
5 as cochairman of the task force;

6
7 (iii) Two (2) members of the senate, appointed
8 by the president of the senate. One (1) member appointed
9 under this paragraph shall be designated by the president
10 of the senate as cochairman of the task force;

11
12 (iv) One (1) member of the Wyoming business
13 council board of directors;

14
15 (v) One (1) member representing business in
16 Wyoming, recommended by a statewide organization
17 representing Wyoming business and appointed by the
18 governor;

19
20 (vi) One (1) member representing manufacturing
21 business in Wyoming, appointed by the governor;

22

1 (vii) One (1) member representing agriculture
2 business in Wyoming, appointed by the governor;

3
4 (viii) One (1) member representing the oil, gas
5 or mineral industry, appointed by the governor;

6
7 (ix) One (1) member representing the tourism
8 industry, appointed by the governor;

9
10 (x) Two (2) members representing local economic
11 development organizations in Wyoming, appointed by the
12 governor;

13
14 (xi) One (1) member who is an elected official
15 of a city or town in Wyoming, recommended by a statewide
16 organization representing municipalities in Wyoming and
17 appointed by the governor;

18
19 (xii) One (1) member who is an elected official
20 of a county in Wyoming, recommended by a statewide
21 organization representing counties in Wyoming and appointed
22 by the governor.

23

1 (b) The task force shall be staffed by the
2 legislative service office.

3

4 (c) The task force shall meet not less than three (3)
5 times during the work of the task force.

6

7 (d) Legislative members of the task force shall
8 receive salary, per diem and mileage as provided by W.S.
9 28-5-101. Members of the task force who are not members of
10 the legislature or state employees shall receive per diem
11 and mileage as provided by W.S. 28-5-101.

12

13 (e) The task force shall:

14

15 (i) Evaluate the Wyoming business council and
16 its programs, duties and functions, including those
17 programs, duties and functions assumed or delegated to the
18 Wyoming business council that are not specified in the
19 Wyoming Economic Development Act;

20

21 (ii) Review economic development initiatives
22 from similar states to Wyoming to inform and develop

1 proposed recommendations and possible policy changes for
2 the Wyoming business council;

3
4 (iii) Review the information reported and
5 submitted by the Wyoming business council under section 3
6 of this act;

7
8 (iv) Consider and develop a proposed strategic
9 direction for the Wyoming business council that represents
10 the needs of the Wyoming business community;

11
12 (v) Evaluate which programs, duties and
13 functions of the Wyoming business council should be
14 retained, modified, privatized, transferred or eliminated;

15
16 (vi) Consider and develop recommended
17 improvements for the operations of the Wyoming business
18 council, including how the Wyoming business council
19 interacts with and involves the Wyoming business community;

20
21 (vii) Develop recommendations for a clear method
22 for communicating and reporting the work and operations of
23 the Wyoming business council to the governor's office and

1 the joint minerals, business and economic development
2 interim committee;

3

4 (viii) Evaluate other community infrastructure
5 development programs and opportunities that may be
6 available through consensus block grant funding, mineral
7 royalty grants or other funding mechanisms;

8

9 (ix) Consider and make recommendations for the
10 incorporation and funding of regional comprehensive
11 economic development strategies through the Wyoming
12 business council in coordination with local governments and
13 economic development organizations;

14

15 (x) Consider and make a recommendation to the
16 legislature about the creation of a select economic
17 development committee;

18

19 (xi) Consider and develop proposed legislation
20 to implement any recommendations or proposals developed
21 through the task force's work under this subsection.

22

1 (f) Not later than October 1, 2026, the task force
2 shall:

3

4 (i) Report its findings and recommendations for
5 the Wyoming business council to the governor and the joint
6 minerals, business and economic development interim
7 committee;

8

9 (ii) Forward any proposed legislation for the
10 2027 general session to the joint minerals, business and
11 economic development interim committee or to another
12 applicable committee.

13

14 (g) The task force may request the assistance of any
15 state agency or other entity in completing its work. Upon
16 receiving a request under this subsection, each agency or
17 entity shall provide assistance to the task force as
18 requested.

19

20 (h) The task force created under this section shall
21 terminate on December 31, 2026.

22

23 **Section 3.**

1

2 (a) On the effective date of this act, the Wyoming
3 business council shall not take any action that expands any
4 program, duty or function of the Wyoming business council
5 and shall not assume any new program, duty or function
6 until July 1, 2027, unless otherwise required by law.

7

8 (b) Not later than April 30, 2026, the Wyoming
9 business council shall report to the joint minerals,
10 business and economic development interim committee, the
11 governor, the state budget department and the Wyoming
12 energy authority on all of the following:

13

14 (i) The total amount of grant funds and
15 financial aid obligated for disbursement as of April 30,
16 2026 but not disbursed;

17

18 (ii) The number of loans executed by the Wyoming
19 business council that are still outstanding as of April 30,
20 2026. In reporting information under this paragraph, the
21 Wyoming business council shall itemize each loan by program
22 and report the recipient of each outstanding loan, the
23 terms and conditions of each outstanding loan, the

1 repayment schedule for each loan and the amount remaining
2 to be repaid for each outstanding loan;

3
4 (iii) The number of bonds executed by the
5 Wyoming business council before April 30, 2026 that are
6 still outstanding as of April 30, 2026. In reporting
7 information under this paragraph, the Wyoming business
8 council shall report each outstanding bond, the terms and
9 conditions of each outstanding bond and any amount
10 remaining to be paid or repaid for each outstanding bond;

11
12 (iv) Agreements or contracts for grants, loans,
13 bonds and financial aid for which the state receives or
14 will receive a portion or all of the funds upon a sale of
15 property or the project;

16
17 (v) All real and personal property owned or held
18 by the Wyoming business council as of April 30, 2026.
19 Information reported under this paragraph shall include the
20 program or function for which the property is owned or
21 held;

22

1 (vi) Each program and function administered or
2 operated by the Wyoming business council;

3
4 (vii) Each set or group of funds received or
5 managed by the Wyoming business council;

6
7 (viii) The return on investment for each program
8 operated or administered by the Wyoming business council.

9
10 **Section 4.**

11
12 (a) There is appropriated twenty thousand dollars
13 (\$20,000.00) from the general fund to the legislative
14 service office for purposes of providing salary, per diem
15 and mileage to the legislative members of the task force
16 created under section 2 of this act. This appropriation
17 shall be for the period beginning with the effective date
18 of this act and ending June 30, 2028. This appropriation
19 shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose
20 and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
21 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
22 2028.

1 (b) There is appropriated forty thousand dollars
2 (\$40,000.00) from the general fund to the office of the
3 governor for purposes of providing per diem and mileage to
4 nonlegislative members of the task force created under
5 section 2 of this act. This appropriation shall be for the
6 period beginning with the effective date of this act and
7 ending June 30, 2028. This appropriation shall not be
8 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
9 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
10 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
11 2028. It is the intent of the legislature that this
12 appropriation not be included in the standard budget of the
13 office of the governor for the immediately succeeding
14 fiscal biennium.

15

16 (c) There is appropriated seventy-five thousand
17 dollars (\$75,000.00) from the general fund to the
18 legislative service office for purposes of securing expert
19 or consulting services associated with the evaluation and
20 review of the Wyoming business council specified in this
21 act. This appropriation shall be for the period beginning
22 with the effective date of this act and ending June 30,
23 2028. This appropriation shall not be transferred or

1 expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,
2 unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall
3 revert as provided by law on June 30, 2028.

4

5 (d) The legislative service office and the office of
6 the governor may accept grants, gifts and donations to be
7 utilized for the purposes specified in this section.

8

9 **Section 5.** This act is effective immediately upon
10 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
11 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
12 Constitution.

13

14 (END)