

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Wyoming meat packing initiative.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands &  
Water Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to agriculture and economic development;  
2 amending the duties of the Wyoming business council to  
3 require support for Wyoming producers in the agriculture  
4 and meat processing industry; expanding permissible loans  
5 and grants; requiring rulemaking; and providing for  
6 effective dates.

7

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

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10 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-12-109(b)(intro), (i) through (iv),  
11 and by creating new paragraphs (v) through (xi) and by  
12 creating new subsections (c) and (d) is amended to read:

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2           **9-12-109. Promotion of agriculture.**

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4           (b) The council shall meet not fewer than two (2)  
5 times per year to solicit input from industry groups, the  
6 department of agriculture, Wyoming governor's office,  
7 industry stakeholders and in-consultation to the extent  
8 practicable, consult with the economically needed diversity  
9 options for Wyoming (ENDOW) executive council to:

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11           (i) Develop a strategy to create small  
12 regionally located beef-meat processing plants inspected by  
13 the United States department of agriculture or Wyoming  
14 department of agriculture and mid-to-large sized processing  
15 plants for in-state, interstate and international sales;

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17           (ii) Market Wyoming grown and produced  
18 agricultural products in-state, regionally, nationally and  
19 internationally, through market development, trade shows  
20 and social media and other media outlets;

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1 (iii) Enhance the council's website to promote  
2 Wyoming grown or produced agricultural products including  
3 match making services between key food system partners;

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5 (iv) Contingent on available funds, provide  
6 loans or grants to be used to fund infrastructure for mid-  
7 sized meat processing plants for international, in-state  
8 and interstate sales. Loans or grants under this paragraph  
9 shall: ~~be:~~

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11 (A) ~~Limited to Provide~~ funding to create,  
12 maintain or expand infrastructure for plants processing  
13 meat products for export and for in-state or interstate  
14 sale;

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16 (B) Be provided through a program  
17 administered by the council, including the Wyoming business  
18 ready community program, and subject to all applicable  
19 statutes and rules governing the program.

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21 (C) Not exceed five hundred thousand  
22 dollars (\$500,000.00) per project and, for loans, have an  
23 interest rate not lower than three percent (3%) per annum.

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2 (v) Coordinate strategies to improve meat  
3 processing facilities and capabilities in Wyoming,  
4 including:

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6 (A) Providing technical assistance or  
7 expertise to assist producers processors with seeking  
8 federal grants and loans;

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10 (B) Increasing Wyoming producers'  
11 participation in applicable federal programs;

12

13 (vi) Provide loans, grants, technical assistance  
14 or expertise to assist producers plan, finance, construct,  
15 develop, acquire, own, lease, operate, maintain, modernize,  
16 upgrade or dispose, within and outside the state of  
17 Wyoming, meat processing facilities and all other property,  
18 structures, equipment, utilities and works of public  
19 improvement necessary or useful to facilitate the  
20 production, transportation, distribution and delivery of  
21 meat that is produced within or outside this state,  
22 including obtaining permits and acquiring necessary rights-  
23 of-way;

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(vii) Provide technical assistance and expertise to assist producers with permitting, siting and other regulatory requirements;

(viii) Provide technical assistance or expertise to assist producers acquire light, water, communications, security and other services for facilities as the authority deems advisable;

(ix) Investigate, plan and establish priorities for meat processing facilities in Wyoming;

(x) Engage with international and domestic stakeholders on potential market opportunities and meat processing projects to identify, develop and promote projects and market opportunities to increase the value of Wyoming livestock and meat;

(xi) Develop and administer programs to educate producers and the public on meat processing and the Wyoming livestock industry including tours, academic programs and communication plans;

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2 (c) Any meat processing facility receiving assistance  
3 under this section shall comply with all applicable state  
4 and federal regulations.

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6 (d) The council shall submit a comprehensive report  
7 of the programs, objectives, activities and condition  
8 covering the previous fiscal period to the joint  
9 agriculture, state and public lands & water resources  
10 committee not later than October 1 annually.

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13 STAFF COMMENT

14 Due to limited time before the Committee Meeting, these  
15 issues have not been exhaustively researched but it appears  
16 the bill may implicate Wyoming constitution Article 3  
17 Section 36, which reads:  
18 *No appropriation shall be made for charitable, industrial,*  
19 *educational or benevolent purposes to any person,*  
20 *corporation or community not under the absolute control of*  
21 *the state, nor to any denominational or sectarian*  
22 *institution or association.*

23

24 And or Article 16 Section 6, as discussed in the Meat  
25 processing authority memorandum presented at the August  
26 2020 Committee meeting. That provision reads:

27 (a) *Neither the state nor any county, city, township,*  
28 *town, school district, or any other political subdivision,*  
29 *shall:*

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31 (i) *Loan or give its credit or make donations to*  
32 *or in aid of any individual, association or corporation,*  
33 *except for necessary support of the poor; or*

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1           (ii) *Subscribe to or become the owner of the*  
2 *capital stock of any association or corporation, except*  
3 *that:*

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5           (A) *Funds of public employee retirement*  
6 *systems and the permanent funds of the state of Wyoming may*  
7 *be invested in such stock under conditions the legislature*  
8 *prescribes;*

9  
10           (B) *The legislature may provide by law for*  
11 *the investment of funds not designated as permanent funds*  
12 *of the state in the capital stock of any association or*  
13 *corporation and may designate which of these funds may be*  
14 *invested. The legislature may prescribe different*  
15 *investment conditions for each fund. Any legislation*  
16 *establishing or increasing the percentage of any fund that*  
17 *may be invested under this subparagraph shall be passed*  
18 *only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the members of each*  
19 *of the two (2) houses voting separately.*

20  
21           (b) *The state shall not engage in any work of*  
22 *internal improvement unless authorized by a two-thirds*  
23 *(2/3) vote of the people.*

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25 \*\*\*\*\*  
26 The Committee may also want to note that it is unclear if  
27 the Wyoming Business Council is in receipt of sufficient  
28 funds to fulfil the requirements of this act without an  
29 appropriation.

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32           **Section 2.** The economically needed diversity options  
33 for Wyoming executive council may promulgate rules as  
34 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

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36           **Section 3.**

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1           (a)     Except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
2 section, this act is effective July 1, 2021.

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4           (b)     Section 2 of this act is effective immediately  
5 upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become  
6 law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
7 Constitution.

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9

(END)