

2020 INTERIM

COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL COMMITTEE TOPICS

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

- 1) Funding for Tele/Video capabilities for County jails, health care providers and mental health providers;
- 2) Review of mortgages, eviction & forbearance impact on landlords (for support of poor, Amendment IV, or Constitutional amendment);
- 3) Civil immunity and liability issues, including consideration of relevant issues in Wyoming Statute Title 35, Chapter 4, Article 1;
- 4) Review operations of the criminal justice system in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and consider changes that may be made to improve health and safety and generally improve efficiency.

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS

- 1) Review local government funding (for expenses related to COVID 19 response);
- 2) Backfill sick leave coffers for state employees and local government employees working through COVID;
- 3) Consider the IT system needs of all governmental entities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 4) Provide hazard pay for those required to work with COVID populations (public or support of poor);
- 5) Additional funding to senior citizen centers for food insecurity or other effects of COVID;
- 6) WYOLINK funding and tower leasing for cellular/broadband access;
- 7) Departments' laptop replacement to accommodate work from home;
- 8) Reimbursement to state agencies for installation of COVID 19 protective physical barriers in state offices or facilities.

REVENUE

- 1) Review Wyoming's financial situation and its potential impact on governmental operations with potential means to address revenue shortfalls;
- 2) Review the Tax 2000 document and the applicability of its recommendations and studies to the current economic situation;
- 3) Review Medicaid expansion to include a time-limited, four-year expansion with participation conditioned upon the federal government's match of not less than 90%;
- 4) Loan repayments for Critical Access Hospitals that haven't been able to make loan payments because of COVID impacts;
- 5) Fund Wyoming Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program.

EDUCATION

- 1) Establish a 4-year BA nursing degree at a community college;
- 2) Increase the number of nursing students' slots at community colleges by increasing the faculty;
- 3) Fund additional health programs such as surgical tech programs at a community college;
- 4) Establish a PA-C program at a community college;
- 5) Fund community WIFI for tele-education/telemedicine;
- 6) Establish telehealth programs in schools;
- 7) School funding model adjustments to account for inequities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 8) Funding for breakfast and lunch distributions by schools [including consideration of funding through summer months].

AGRICULTURE

- 1) Review agriculture relief programs that are offered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and consider best practices for disclosing those programs to Wyoming producers;
- 2) Review supply chain issues and bring recommendations;

- 3) State fair / county fairs - Wyoming law currently requires that the state fair be conducted without accommodation for disaster declarations/disease/etc;
- 4) Meat packers / food processing/ food supply chain issues;
- 5) Department of Agriculture and/or brand fee reductions/relief.

TRAVEL, RECREATION AND WILDLIFE

- 1) Promote and encourage visitation to the state, including the reopening of state parks and other tourism facilities;
- 2) CCC program for high school and college students to build and repair public land trails and associated needs.

CORPORATIONS

- 1) Critical access hospital construction;
- 2) Construction of small clinics in small towns that serve as critical care;
- 3) Ensuring the continuity of Wyoming's social safety-net programs provided by nonprofit entities;
- 4) Support work of the Broadband Task Force, Broadband Utility;
- 5) Examine current emergency powers of state and county health officers, including consideration of the closure and opening of public facilities, including schools, by public authorities;
- 6) Review pandemic election preparations and the powers of the Secretary of State and county clerks as chief elections officers.

TRANSPORTATION

- 1) Emergency access highways to critical care hospitals;
- 2) WYDOT emergency support function reimbursement for COVID related expenses;
- 3) WYDOT reimbursement for additional temporary employees put in place because of COVID 19 to cover required services to the public;
- 4) Statutory changes to address trucking, aviation and railroad issues raised by COVID-19;

5) Consider the statutory authority of WYDOT to act in times of natural disaster/emergencies without the need for the Governor to issue an executive order [e.g. size/weight permits - operating time regulations - powers/duties under W.S. 24-2-105].

MINERALS

- 1) Regulatory relief for oil and gas industry;
- 2) State coordinated EMS transport-helicopter service;
- 3) Relief on shut-in clauses and plug and abandon deadlines;
- 4) Bonding issues, including idle bonds;
- 5) Energy sector taxation - e.g. Louisiana bill to suspend severance taxes on oil and natural gas for a set period of time;
- 6) Unemployment insurance fund stabilization;
- 7) Stand up short-time compensation plan (“shared work” as authorized in CARES Act).

LABOR

- 1) Monitor workers compensation issues, including rate holiday-premium credit programs, and issues related to workers who are not covered by worker's compensation;
- 2) Ensuring continuity of Wyoming social safety-net programs provided by nonprofit entities;
- 3) Cowboy Care Insurance/EGI managed care;
- 4) Wyoming investment in nursing program funding;
- 5) Consider legislation to allow cost-based reimbursement for services using telehealth consults;
- 6) Re-fund the provider loan payment program that hasn't been funded for several biennia. Tweak existing statutes to “reward” providers in WY during coronavirus, authorize prioritization;
- 7) Require telehealth insurance coverage parity for mental health;
- 8) Update WS 9-2-127 “Wyoming Primary Care Support Grant” to reflect COVID impacts;
- 9) Increase Medicaid payment rates to all providers;

10) Childcare reimbursement for essential employers paying extra for childcare during pandemic;

11) Healthcare provider revenue loss reimbursement. This is based on the 2015 SF 145 session law (sunset in 2016). This should be in place in case a federal bill passes after our special session, allowing for reimbursement of revenue lost due to cancelled procedures to conserve beds and PPE. The authorized providers are designated under the CARES Act;

12) Consider use of federal funds to refund the federal Layoff Aversion Grants Program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act [DWS provided \$5k grants at the beginning of pandemic until \$300k funding was quickly exhausted].

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

1) Consider funding and opportunities created by the CARES Act to promote rural broadband access, increase capacity for telemedicine/telehealth and distance learning [and coordinate with relevant standing committees].