

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Chancery court judges-district and circuit court assistance.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Nicholas

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to courts; authorizing the assignment of  
2 cases and proceedings from circuit courts and district  
3 courts to chancery court judges; specifying requirements  
4 for transfers; authorizing retired chancery court judges to  
5 provide judicial service as specified; making conforming  
6 amendments; and providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 5-1-106(f), 5-3-112(a)(intro) and  
11 (iii), 5-9-131(a)(intro) and 5-13-116 by creating new  
12 subsections (b) and (c) are amended to read:

1

2           **5-1-106. Retirement of judges of the supreme court or**  
3 **district courts; pension; assignment of retired judges.**

4

5           (f) Any justice of the supreme court, chancery court  
6 judge or district court judge of this state, who has  
7 retired pursuant to the provisions of this section, and who  
8 is not practicing law, may, notwithstanding his retirement,  
9 be called upon, with his consent, at the request of a  
10 district court judge or circuit court judge, with the  
11 consent of the chief justice, or by the chief justice, and  
12 assigned to service on any court. A retired justice or  
13 judge shall receive as a salary during any period of  
14 assignment an amount equal to the current compensation of a  
15 judge of the court to which he is assigned. The salary  
16 received by a retired justice or judge during any period of  
17 assignment shall not affect the receipt of any retirement  
18 allowance received by the retired justice or judge during  
19 the period of assignment. Assignments of retired justices  
20 or judges under this section shall only be made in a manner  
21 that does not jeopardize the qualified status of state  
22 retirement plans established by the Wyoming legislature.  
23 When called to serve, a retired judge or justice shall

1 receive the same per diem and travel allowances as allowed  
2 active judges or justices. Per diem, allowances and  
3 compensation shall be paid from the contingent fund of the  
4 court to which the judge or justice is assigned.

5

6 **5-3-112. Assignment to circuit court judge.**

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8 (a) A judge of the district court may assign to a  
9 circuit court judge or a chancery court judge any case or  
10 proceeding within the jurisdiction of the district court  
11 subject only to the following restrictions:

12

13 (iii) Consent of each plaintiff and each  
14 defendant in a civil action; ~~wherein the amount in~~  
15 ~~controversy is greater than fifty thousand dollars~~  
16 ~~(\$50,000.00);~~ and

17

18 \*\*\*\*\*  
19 \*\*\*\*\*

20 **STAFF COMMENT**

21  
22 **For reference, the entirety of W.S. 5-9-131 is reproduced**  
23 **here. Only the provision amended would appear in a final**  
24 **version of this bill draft.**

25

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27 \*\*\*\*\*

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1           **5-9-131. Assignment to district court judge or**  
2 **chancery court judge.**

3

4           (a) A circuit court judge may assign to a district  
5 court judge or a chancery court judge any case or  
6 proceeding within the jurisdiction of the circuit court  
7 subject only to the following restrictions:

8

9                   (i) Rules promulgated by the supreme court; and

10

11                   (ii) Acceptance of the judge to whom the  
12 assignment of the case or proceeding is to be made.

13

14           (b) The law and rules governing circuit court and  
15 appeals therefrom shall apply to a case or proceeding  
16 assigned pursuant to this section.

17

18           **5-13-116. Powers generally; expenses of judges when**  
19 **acting in a circuit court.**

20

21                   (b) A judge of the chancery court may hear any case or  
22 proceeding assigned to the chancery court by a district

1 court in accordance with W.S. 5-3-112(a) or a circuit court  
2 in accordance with W.S. 5-9-131.

3  
4 (c) The expenses of any chancery court judge holding  
5 court in any circuit court pursuant to assignment under  
6 W.S. 5-9-131 or in any district court pursuant to  
7 assignment under W.S. 5-3-112(a), including the judge's  
8 traveling expenses, and the judge's expenses while holding  
9 court, shall be charged to the fund of the court where the  
10 judge is holding court pursuant to assignment under W.S. 5-  
11 3-112(a) or 5-9-131.

12  
13 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

14  
15 (END)