## DRAFT ONLY NOT APPROVED FOR INTRODUCTION

HOUSE BILL NO.

Wyoming imagination library program.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

## A BILL

for 1 AN ACT relating to education; establishing the Wyoming 2 imagination library program; providing funding for the free 3 distribution of books to young children as specified; requiring 4 providing definitions; creating an account; 5 rulemaking; providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective date. 6 7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming: 8 9

Section 1. W.S. 21-2-205 is created to read: 10

12 21-2-205. Wyoming imagination library program.

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1	(a) As used in this section:
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3	(i) "County based affiliate program" means a
4	local affiliate of the Wyoming imagination library program
5	that operates within a county;
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7 8 9 10	**************************************
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	definition of county based affiliate program or add requirements to be eligible to be a county based affiliate program. As currently drafted, the definition of county based affiliate program is broad and may include denominational or sectarian institutions, corporations, libraries, school districts, and other entities.  ***********************************
20	(ii) "Participating county" means a county with
21	not less than one (1) county based affiliate program;
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23	(iii) "Registered eligible child" means a child
24	from birth to five (5) years of age who resides in this
25	state and who is registered in a county based affiliate
26	program.
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28	(b) The Wyoming imagination library program is created
29	to be administered by the department of education. The

1	purpose of the program shall be to promote the development
2	of a comprehensive statewide initiative for encouraging
3	children from birth to five (5) years of age to develop a
4	love of reading and learning.
5	
6	(c) The department of education shall coordinate with
7	a nonprofit entity, qualified under section 501(c)(3) of
8	the Internal Revenue Code and organized solely to promote
9	and encourage reading by children, to:
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11	(i) Provide at least one (1) age appropriate book
12	to each registered eligible child in each participating
13	county monthly at no cost to families;
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15	(ii) Promote the statewide development of county
16	based affiliate programs and advance and strengthen the
17	county based affiliate programs to increase enrollment;
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19	(iii) Develop a public awareness campaign to
20	promote the program and ensure the public is aware of the
21	opportunity to register eligible children to receive free

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books through the program;

1 (iv) Administer the county based affiliate

2 program funding match requirement as specified in

3 subsection (d) of this section and coordinate the

4 collection and remittance of books;

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6 (v) Solicit donations, gifts and other funding

7 to financially support county based affiliate programs.

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9 (d) Each participating county based affiliate program

10 shall contribute fifty percent (50%) of the funds required

11 for the program to operate in the county directly to the

12 department of education. The department of education shall

13 manage the funds received by each participating county

14 based affiliate program. To the extent that funds are

15 available in the Wyoming imagination library program

16 account created in subsection (e) of this section, the

17 department of education shall provide to each participating

18 county based affiliate program an additional amount from

19 the Wyoming imagination library program account not to

20 exceed the amount of funds received from each participating

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21 county based affiliate program.

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1 There is created the Wyoming imagination library (e) 2 program account. The account shall include all legislative 3 appropriations and all monies received from grants, gifts, 4 transfers, bequests and donations to the account. 5 account is authorized to accept grants, gifts, transfers, bequests and donations. All monies received shall be 6 deposited into the account. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 7 8 9-2-1012(e) or 9-4-207, unobligated and unexpended funds in the account shall not lapse or revert and shall remain in 9 10 the account and be available for distribution as provided 11 in this section.

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(f) Monies deposited into the Wyoming imagination 13 library program account shall be continuously appropriated 14 15 and expended by the department of education to 16 administer the Wyoming imagination library 17 established under subsection (b) of this section and to provide the state's share of any matching funds as required 18 19 under subsection (d) of this section.

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21 (g) Funds in the Wyoming imagination library program account shall be invested by the state treasurer pursuant 22

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1	to law and the investment earnings shall be credited to the
2	account.
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4	(h) The department of education shall promulgate rules
5	necessary to carry out this section.
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7	Section 2. There is appropriated XXX (\$XX.00) from
8	the general fund to the Wyoming imagination library program
9	account created in section 1 of this act. This
10	appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the
11	effective date of this act. This appropriation shall not be
12	transferred or expended for any other purpose.
13	Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207 this
14	appropriation shall not revert. It is the intent of the
15	legislature that this appropriation shall be included in
16	the department of education's standard budget for the
17	immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.
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19 20 21	**************************************
22 23 24	The Committee will need to determine the appropriation amount of the new account.  ***********************************

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1 Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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3 (END)

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