

**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;  
4 providing definitions; creating an account; requiring  
5 rulemaking; providing an appropriation; and providing for  
6 an effective date.

7

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

9

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

11

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

13

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;

6

7 \*\*\*\*\*  
8 \*\*\*\*\*

9 STAFF COMMENT

10 The Committee may wish to consider whether to narrow the  
11 definition of county based affiliate program or add  
12 requirements to be eligible to be a county based affiliate  
13 program. As currently drafted, the definition of county  
14 based affiliate program is broad and may include  
15 denominational or sectarian institutions, corporations,  
16 libraries, school districts, and other entities.

17 \*\*\*\*\*  
18 \*\*\*\*\*

19

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.

27

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:

10

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;

14

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;

18

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  
22 books through the program;

23

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.

8

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  
21 county based affiliate program.

22

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

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

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

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.

6

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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20 \*\*\*\*\*  
21 **STAFF COMMENT**  
22 **The Committee will need to determine the appropriation**  
23 **amount of the new account.**  
24 \*\*\*\*\*  
25 \*\*\*\*\*  
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1       **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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(END)