DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR INTRODUCTION

HOUSE BILL NO.

Smokebusters program-employment opportunities.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Haroldson

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to fire protection; specifying protections relating to appointment, employment and volunteer service as a firefighter for persons who have acquired wildland fire or forestry experience through specified inmate firefighting programs as specified; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1. W.S. 36-2-111 is created to read:

36-2-111. Forestry conservation program; employment opportunities.

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The state forester, a board of county commissioners providing fire protection pursuant to W.S. 18-3-509, a municipality or any other governmental entity that provides fire protection shall not disqualify an applicant for appointment, employment or volunteer service as a firefighter solely because the applicant has been convicted of a crime if the applicant has acquired wildland fire or forestry experience through the forestry conservation program administered by the forestry division of the office of state lands and investments or a substantially similar inmate firefighting program administered by another state or the federal government. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit consideration of the nature and circumstances of a specific conviction or disqualification of an applicant if the conviction is reasonably related to the duties and responsibilities of the position.

Section 2. W.S. 15-5-114(a)(intro) is amended to read:

15-5-114. Persons not eligible for appointment; criminal history record information; exceptions.

(a) Except as provided in W.S. 36-2-111, no person may be appointed or employed as a regular policeman or officer of the police department or as a fireman or officer of a fire department who:

Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2027.

(END)