

# **2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

## ***BILL REVIEW AND STATUS***

THURSDAY , MARCH 2, 2023

**NOTE:** THE GENERAL SESSION CONVENED ON JANUARY 10TH. FEBRUARY 24TH WAS THE LAST DAY FOR BILLS TO BE REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE IN THE 2ND HOUSE. A TOTAL OF 497 BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS WERE OFFERED FOR INTRODUCTION THIS SESSION. UPDATED BILL STATUS INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON THE WSGA WEBSITE EACH MONDAY. For more information, call the WSGA office at 307-638-3942.

### **HOUSE BILLS**

**HB 01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS**—[See Page 5]

Passed House & Senate; Signed by the Governor

WSGA Position: Monitor

**HB 16 STATE LAND LEASING—IMPROVEMENTS**—Increases from \$2,000 to \$4000 per section for each improvement on state leased land without prior authorization; changes toe valuation of improvements for reimbursement by a new lessee from “contributory value” to “depreciated value”.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**HB 17 STATE LANDS—GRAZING OF NON-OWNED LIVESTOCK**—Provides that prior approval and the sharing of “excess rentals” is not applicable to the grazing of non-owned livestock so long as the lessee retains full management and responsibility for the livestock.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**HB 20 LAND EXCHANGES—PRIORITY**—Provides for notice to current lessees, owners of adjoining lands, county commissioners and legislators from the affected county prior to completing a land exchange; prioritized exchanges that are within the same county, increase public access, consolidates state ownership, or has express support from any of the above listed entities.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**HB 21 STATE LANDS—USE OF LAND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**—Clarifies existing language to provide that any applicant to lease state lands for grazing and agricultural purposes must have actual and necessary use for the land.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**HB 22 STATE LAND LEASE DEFICIENCIES—CURE PROCESS**—Requires that all applications to lease state lands are to be filed 60 days before expiration of the existing lease; requires a 2nd notice for failure to file or deficiencies in the filing not less than 40 days prior to expiration and offer the lessee not less than 30 days from receipt to file or correct the deficiency; requires payment of annual rentals forty days before the anniversary date; provides for an additional certified notice if the rental is not paid by the anniversary date and allows for an additional thirty days from the date of the notice to make payment together with a 10% late fee.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**HB 41 LIGHTWEIGHT TRAILERS—PERMANENT REGISTRATION**—Authorizes permanent registration of house trailers, semitrailers and utility trailers that are at least six years old upon payment of an administrative fee of \$50 plus an amount equal to five times the normally applicable fees.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Support

**HB 42 OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLE OPERATION**—Prohibits the operation of off-road recreational vehicles within the right of way of interstate highways with exceptions..

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Monitor

**HB 93 OMNIBUS WATER BILL-CONSTRUCTION**—General authorization and funding allocation for diverse water projects including cloud seeding; increase appropriations for previously approved construction projects.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Support

**HB 104 HUNTING OF PREDATORY ANIMALS –AMENDMENTS**—Allows the use of artificial lighting for the hunting of predatory animals.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Support

**HB 106 EMINENT DOMAIN-WIND ENERGY COLLECTOR SYSTEMS**—Reinstates a previous moratorium on the use of eminent domain to condemn a right of way across private land for wind energy collector systems until 2032.

Status: Passed House & Senate; VETOED BY GOVERNOR

WSGA Position: Oppose as Amended

**HB 123 COLLECTION OF ANTLER OR HORNS BY RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS**—Provides that shed antlers or horns found on public lands are the property of the state; empowers the G&F to establish seasons for their collection; requires that the season begin for residents seven days before nonresidents.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Monitor

**HB 142 NOTICE OF ANNEXATION**—Requires notice to landowners prior to annexation of land into a city or town.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Support

**HB 147 UNLAWFUL TRESPASS SIGNAGE-TAKING OF WILDLIFE**—Forbids the posting of signs that restrict access to state or federal lands for taking of wildlife where access is available.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Monitor

**HB 171 NOTICE OF STATE LAND LEASES AND LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES**—Requires specified public notice 30 days before the leasing of trust lands for industrial, commercial, and recreational purposes;

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Support

**HB 180 BRUCELLOSIS TESTING-NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**—Requires the Wyoming Livestock Board to establish a communication protocol for providing information related to brucellosis testing to livestock producers, veterinarians and brand inspectors.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Support

**HB 188 WOLF DEPREDATION COMPENSATION**—Authorized compensation for livestock damaged by gray wolves in the predator area from July, 2023 thru Jun3 2026; appropriates \$300,000.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Support

**HB 200 NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES-APPLICATION FEES**—Significantly increases application fees for all big game species.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Monitor

**HB 222 COLORADO RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**—Creates an advisory committee on Colorado River water management including representatives from agriculture, industrial users, and municipalities.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Support

**HB 276 SHED ANTLERS AND HORNS PERMIT**—Requires a permit for the collection of shed antlers and horns on public lands; no fee for residents; \$20 fee for non-residents.

Status: Passed House & Senate

WSGA Position: Monitor

## SENATE FILES

**SF 01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS**—Mirror Bill to HB 01.

**SF 28 LIVESTOCK INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL-TRIBAL INCLUSION**—Enables the state veterinarian to provide contagious and infectious reportable disease testing, containment and reimbursement services on the Wind River Reservation; authorizes the Governor to enter into negotiations with any tribe in the region to ensure that brucellosis is not passed from wildlife to livestock.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Support

**SF 29 BRUCELLOSIS MANAGEMENT UPDATES**—Removes the mandatory requirement for branding of confirmed brucellosis infected animals; reidentifies “areas of concern” as “temporary surveillance” areas; authorizes the WLB to specify the required documentation for reimbursement.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**SF 31 ADJACENT LAND RESOURCE DATA –TRESPASS REPEAL**—Removes that portion of statute related to civil actions for trespassing across private land to collect resource data on other lands which was found to be invalid by the Court.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Support

**SF 33 DEFINING AIRCRAFT FOR PURPOSES OF HUNTING PROHIBITIONS**—Defines “aircraft” for the purposes of the hunting prohibition as “any machine or device capable of atmospheric flight” including unmanned vehicles.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**SF 56 PROHIBITING TRAVEL ACROSS PRIVATE LANDS FOR HUNTING PURPOSES**—Amends the current prohibition under the Game & Fish statutes to include travel through or return across private property; defines such travel to require physically touching or driving on the surface of the private property.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**SF 68 PRESCRIPTIVE EASEMENT FOR WATER CONVEYANCES**—Provides for establishment of a prescriptive easement for a water conveyance that has been used and maintained for a period of at least ten years in a continuous open and notorious manner.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Monitor

**SF 71 STATE LOAN AND BOND PROGRAMS**—Would tie the interest rate on farm loans to the yield on a U.S. Treasury Security of the same duration with the Board being able to add an additional risk premium of up to 2%; would remove the current lower interest rate for beginning agricultural producers; would reduce the authorized amount available for farm loans from \$275 million to \$50 million.

Status: Passed Senate & House; OVERRIDE OF GOVERNOR’S VETO

WSGA Position: Strongly Oppose

**SF 87 NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING-LARGE PROJECT THRESHOLD INCREASE**—Increases the threshold for prior legislative approval of large projects from \$200,000 to \$400,000.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**SF 96 OMNIBUS WATER BILL-PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**—Authorizes and allocates funding for numerous reconnaissance and feasibility studies for both new and rehabilitation projects.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Monitor

**SF 102 FOOD FREEDOM ACT AMENDMENTS**—Authorizes a producer to employ a third-party “designated agent” to sell products; includes eggs and dairy products under the Act.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Support

**SF 106 2023 LARGE PROJECTS FUNDING**—Authorizes funding of specific projects exceeding \$200,000 from the WWNRT including wildlife and fishery habitats, rangelands, removal of wild horses and conservation easements.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Support

**SF 128 TRANSFER OF STATE LANDS-EXCHANGE**—Removes the current requirement that any exchange of lands with the federal government must be of equal acreage.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Monitor

**SF 136 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF-ASSESSMENT RATE ADJUSTMENT**—Reduces the assessment rate from 9.5% to 7.5%.

Status: Passed Senate

WSGA Position: Monitor

**SF 137 SUBDIVISIONS-FENCING REQUIREMENTS**—Any subdivider in an area where livestock can legally run at large would be required to construct a perimeter fence and be responsible for all costs.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

**SF 157 WEED AND PEST MITIGATION-TRIBAL INCLUSION**—Clarifies that the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe may apply to participate in the emergency insect management program.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Support

**SF 178 MOUNTAIN LION PURSUIT SEASONS**—Directs the G&F Commission to establish seasons for the pursuit of mountain lions with dogs without the authority to kill or capture.

Status: Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Monitor

**SJ 07 SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN**—Support for economic ties with Taiwan as a sister state and for Taiwanese participation in international organizations.

Passed Senate & House

WSGA Position: Strongly Support

## **HB 01—APPROPRIATIONS [Related to Agriculture]**

### **Department of Agriculture**

Predator Management (Increase)	\$1,483,510
State Fair Endowment (Match)	\$500,000

### **Wildlife & Natural Resource Trust**

Invasive Plants & Aquatic Invasive Species	\$1,250,000
WWNRT Corpus	\$5,000,000

### **Wyoming Livestock Board**

Administration (Increase)	\$369,172
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### **State Lands & Investments**

Operations (Increase)	\$515,273
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### **University of Wyoming**

State Veterinary Lab—Personnel	\$860,000
College of Agriculture (Match)	\$2,500,000

## **BILLS THAT FAILED OR WERE NOT CONSIDERED**

### **STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY WSGA**

- **HB 116 PROHIBITING FOREIGN PROPERTY OWNERSHIP IN WYOMING**
- **HB 271 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE ENDOWMENT**
- **SF 73 LAWFUL FENCES**
- **HJ 03 WILD HORSES AND BURROS-BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

### **SUPPORTED BY WSGA**

- **HB 03 STATE ASSESSMENT OF INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS**
- **HB 73 ANNEXATION-VOTE REQUIREMENT**
- **HB 75 PAINTED FENCE POSTS—NO TRESSPASSING**
- **HB 83 TRIBAL AGREEMENTS TO HUNT AND FISH**
- **HB 95 WORKING ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT**
- **HB 126 TRESPASS-REMOVAL OF TRESPASSER**
- **HB 236 TAX EXEMPTION-AGRICULTURAL REPAIR AND PARTS**
- **HB 257 MINE PERMIT AND RECLAMATION PLAN CHANGES-LANDOWNER APPROVAL**
- **HB 267 CONVEYANCES TO UNITED STATES-RIGHT OF REFUSAL BY STATE**
- **HB 285 LANDOWNER HUNTING COUPONS—HUNTS THAT HARVEST NO ANIMALS**
- **SF 34 TRESPASS BY SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT**
- **SF 105 UTILITIES-POINT OF CONSUMPTION AND ALLOCATION AGREEMENTS**
- **SF 110 PERSONAL PROPERTY-TAX EXEMPTION**
- **SF 134 RIGHT TO FARM—REAL ESTATE DISCLOSURES**
- **SF 156 OIL AND GAS FORCED POOLING-GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS**

### **MONITORED BY WSGA**

- **HB 54 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**
- **HB 60 COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY**
- **HB 63 VACANCIES IN ELECTED OFFICE**
- **HB 88 FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND-PROHIBITED**
- **HB 98 PROPERTY TAX-HOMEOWNERS EXEMPTION**
- **HB 178 STATE LAND PARCELS-EVENT HOSTING**
- **HB 217 TROPHY GAME ANIMAL-CHANGE TO LARGE CARNIVORE GAME ANIMAL**

- **HB 228 LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION FACTOR**
- **HB 278 PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENTS MAPPING**
- **HJ 01 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAXATION AMENDMENT**
- **HJ 02 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CLASS**
- **HJ 11 ANIMAL DRUG AVAILABILITY-WYOMING AGRICULTURE**
- **SF 27 WEED AND PEST MITIGATION-TRIBAL INCLUSION**
- **SF 30 APICULTURE-AGRICULTURAL LAND USE PURPOSE**
- **SF 60 NON-ESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE APPLICATION FEES**
- **SF 74 SLOW MOVING VEHICLES-AMENDMENTS**
- **SF 107 ACQUISITION, EXCHANGE AND SALE OF STATE TRUST LANDS**
- **SF 125 PROPERTY TAX-LIMITING THE MAXIMUM TAXABLE VALUE INCREASE**
- **SF 170 SPECIFYING ADDITIONAL BENEFICIAL USES OF WATER**
- **SJ 01 AMENDING WYOMING'S ACT OF OMISSION FOR LEASES AND EARNINGS**

OPPOSED BY WSGA

- **HB 114 LEASING AND SALE OF STATE LANDS-AMENDMENTS**
- **HB 131 STATE LOAN AND INVESTMENT BOARD-TASK FORCE AND STUDY**
- **HB 168 INNOVATIONS IN WYOMING AGRICULTURE**

STRONGLY OPPOSED BY WSGA

- **HB 72 SALES TAX REVISIONS**
- **HB 273 GAME AND FISH TRESPASS-INTENT**
- **SF 180 CORNER CROSSING-TRESPASS EXCEPTION**

- ◆ To access all legislation, to view the legislative sessions or to participate virtually in committee meetings go to [State of Wyoming Legislature \(wyoleg.gov\)](http://State of Wyoming Legislature (wyoleg.gov)) .