

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0180

Coal bed methane clearinghouse.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Lockhart, Jansen, Jorgensen and Meyer and Senator(s) Hawks and Schiffer

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to fund the continuation of the Coal Bed  
2 Methane Clearinghouse website at the University of Wyoming;  
3 establishing a technical advisory committee; refining a  
4 study relating to the expansion of available information;  
5 requiring a report; providing an appropriation; and  
6 providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.**

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12 (a) The legislature finds that:

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14 (i) Ensuring wide availability of comprehensive,  
15 accurate data related to issues associated with the  
16 development of coal bed methane in Wyoming is in the best

1 interests of all parties affected by or involved in coal  
2 bed methane development;

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4 (ii) It is essential that such data be in a  
5 readily accessible electronic format using geographic  
6 information system (GIS) technology;

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8 (iii) The Coal Bed Methane Clearinghouse (CBM  
9 Clearinghouse) website at the University of Wyoming was  
10 created primarily through the use of one-time federal funds  
11 but needs sustained funding to ensure the available  
12 information remains accurate and useful;

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14 (iv) Made publicly available in April 2003, the  
15 CBM Clearinghouse is a centralized Internet-based  
16 clearinghouse for textual, tabular, photographic and  
17 spatially-referenced information pertaining to CBM resource  
18 development and management issues in Wyoming. The  
19 information is accessible on the Internet by federal, state  
20 and local resource management agencies, industry,  
21 nongovernmental organizations and the general public;

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23 (v) Coordination with state agencies that have  
24 CBM related data to assess the capability of making that

1 data readily accessible in an electronic format and  
2 transferable to the CBM Clearinghouse website with minimal  
3 effect on agency operations;

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5 (vi) An evaluation of the performance of the  
6 clearinghouse website should be undertaken before the  
7 conclusion of the 2005-2006 biennium to determine whether  
8 the clearinghouse website should continue to be funded by  
9 the state to provide CBM information.

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11 (b) The CBM Clearinghouse shall continue to be  
12 located at the University of Wyoming and operated by the  
13 university through its Wyoming Geographic Information  
14 Science Center in affiliation with the Ruckelshaus  
15 Institute of Environment and Natural Resources through June  
16 30, 2006, as provided in this section.

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18 (c) The university shall establish a CBM  
19 Clearinghouse technical advisory committee to confer on  
20 data and information issues related to the CBM  
21 Clearinghouse to ensure effective operation with minimal  
22 effect on agency operations. The technical advisory  
23 committee shall communicate with other state and federal  
24 natural resource data coordination efforts to maximize

1 efficiency and eliminate duplication of agency data and  
2 information sharing projects.

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4 (d) The Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center  
5 and Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural  
6 Resources staff will coordinate with state agencies with  
7 CBM related data to determine the cost and value of  
8 formatting related CBM data to readily accessible  
9 electronic information technology that can be transferred  
10 to the CBM Clearinghouse website. These costs and values  
11 will be included in the report under subsection (e) of this  
12 section.

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14 (e) The university, in consultation with the  
15 technical advisory committee, shall provide a report to the  
16 governor and the joint minerals, business and economic  
17 development interim committee of the legislature not later  
18 than October 1, 2005, regarding the extent to which the CBM  
19 Clearinghouse has been used, recommendations for  
20 modifications, and alternative sources of revenue to  
21 support its operation.

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23 **Section 2.** There is appropriated to the University of  
24 Wyoming from the general fund two hundred twenty thousand

1 nine hundred ten dollars (\$220,910.00) to implement this  
2 act, which appropriation shall not be incorporated into the  
3 university's block grant.

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5       **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon  
6 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
7 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
8 Constitution.

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(END)