

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0239

Big Horn basin discovery center.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Quarberg and Hammons and  
Senator(s) Coe, Geis and Peterson

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to Wyoming Big Horn basin nature and  
2 discovery center; providing a grant for construction of the  
3 center on state park land to be located near the entrance  
4 to Hot Springs state park; requiring a lease agreement;  
5 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective  
6 date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.**

11

12 (a) There is appropriated fifteen million dollars  
13 (\$15,000,000.00) from the budget reserve account to the  
14 state loan and investment board to be expended as provided  
15 in this act. None of this appropriation shall be expended  
16 until a joint powers board is created by Hot Springs County

1 and the town of Thermopolis for purposes of constructing  
2 and managing the Big Horn Basin nature and discovery  
3 center. This appropriation shall only be expended for the  
4 purpose of funding the building and related infrastructure  
5 for the Wyoming Big Horn basin nature and discovery center  
6 to be located on state park land near the entrance to Hot  
7 Springs state park. Notwithstanding any other provision of  
8 law, this appropriation shall not be transferred or  
9 expended for any other purpose. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-  
10 1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207(a), funds appropriated under  
11 this act shall not lapse until otherwise directed by the  
12 legislature.

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14 (b) The design and construction of the discovery  
15 center shall follow the process for design and construction  
16 contracts with public entities provided in W.S. 16-6-701  
17 through 16-6-708.

18

19 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section,  
20 no more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) of  
21 the funds shall be expended under this act until one  
22 million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in pledges have been made  
23 to aid in the operation and maintenance of the facility and  
24 pursuant to W.S. 36-8-304 and the joint powers board has

1 entered into a lease agreement with the department of state  
2 parks and cultural resources that authorizes the  
3 construction of the Wyoming Big Horn basin nature and  
4 discovery center located on state park land near the  
5 entrance to Hot Springs state park. The initial one hundred  
6 thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) shall only be expended for  
7 the purpose of engineering and land survey work on the  
8 property.

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10 (d) By September 1, 2009 and each year thereafter  
11 until construction of the facility is completed, the joint  
12 powers board created by Hot Springs County and the town of  
13 Thermopolis shall report to the joint travel, recreation  
14 wildlife and cultural resources interim committee and the  
15 joint minerals, business and economic development interim  
16 committee on the progress of the construction and the  
17 construction related activities of the discovery center  
18 funded under this act.

19

20 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2009.

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22

(END)