

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0268

Wyoming Industry Partnership Act.

Sponsored by: Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of government;  
2 creating the Wyoming Industry Partnership Act; providing  
3 definitions; establishing industry partnerships; providing  
4 for a grant process; establishing the industry partnership  
5 account; providing for rulemaking; requiring reports;  
6 providing an appropriation; and providing for effective  
7 dates.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-2901 through 9-2-2906 are created  
12 to read:

13

14

ARTICLE 29

15

WYOMING INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP ACT

16

1           **9-2-2901. Short title.**

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3       This article shall be known as the "Wyoming Industry  
4       Partnership Act of 2009."

5

6           **9-2-2902. Definitions.**

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8           (a) As used in this article:

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10                   (i) "Council" means the Wyoming workforce  
11       development council;

12

13                   (ii) "Department" means the Wyoming department  
14       of workforce services;

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16                   (iii) "Economic development entity" means a  
17       group of private citizens organized as a business entity  
18       authorized to do business in this state for the purpose of  
19       providing financing for new, existing or expanding  
20       businesses and other economic or community development  
21       purposes;

22

23                   (iv) "Education or training entity" means:

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1                   (A) Any Wyoming community college, the  
2 University of Wyoming, private post secondary educational  
3 institution and private school or organization providing  
4 training in Wyoming which is licensed or registered under  
5 W.S. 21-2-401 through 21-2-407; or

6

7                   (B) Any training facility and entity  
8 approved and registered with the office of apprenticeship,  
9 United States department of labor.

10

11                   (v) "Industry identified solution" means the  
12 development, recruitment or retention project that develops  
13 or enhances the skills of Wyoming's workforce and supports  
14 an industry in meeting its workforce needs;

15

16                   (vi) "Industry partnership" means an industry  
17 directed collaboration, supported by economic development,  
18 education and workforce systems to address common workforce  
19 needs;

20

21                   (vii) "Industry sector" means a group of  
22 employers closely linked by common products or services,  
23 workforce needs, similar technologies, supply chains or  
24 other economic links;

1

2 (viii) "Targeted industry sector" means an  
3 industry sector identified by the department as having  
4 statewide or regional economic impact, immediate workforce  
5 development needs and emerging or competitive career  
6 opportunities.

7

8 **9-2-2903. Industry sectors; identification.**

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10 (a) Industry sectors identified by the department in  
11 conjunction with the council, shall be based on at a  
12 minimum, the following:

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14 (i) Economic growth potential;

15

16 (ii) Competitiveness;

17

18 (iii) Employment base;

19

20 (iv) Wages, benefits and career opportunities;

21

22 (v) Workforce development needs;

23

1           (vi) Importance of the industry sector to the  
2 state and regional economy.

3

4           (b) The department shall periodically evaluate the  
5 industry sectors and determine the need for any  
6 modifications to the targeted industry sectors.

7

8           **9-2-2904. Industry partnership; goals.**

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10          (a) The goals of an industry partnership are to:

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12           (i) Foster innovation and a competitive  
13 advantage in global markets;

14

15           (ii) Organize businesses, employers, workers,  
16 labor organizations and industry associations into a  
17 collaborative structure that supports the sharing of  
18 information, ideas and challenges common to their industry;

19

20           (iii) Identify the training needs of multiple  
21 employers, especially skills critical to competitiveness  
22 and innovation to the industry;

23

1           (iv) Facilitate economies of scale by aggregating  
2 training and education needs of multiple employers;

3

4           (v) Assist educational and training institutions  
5 to align curriculum and programs to industry demand;

6

7           (vi) Assist industry partnership companies to  
8 work together to identify and to address common  
9 organizational and human resource challenges, such as  
10 recruiting new workers, retaining incumbent workers,  
11 implementing a high performance work organization, adopting  
12 new technologies and fostering on-the-job training;

13

14           (vii) Develop and strengthen career paths within  
15 and across companies and industries to enable entry level  
16 workers to improve skills and advance to higher wage jobs;

17

18           (viii) Assist industry partnership companies to  
19 attract potential employees from a diverse job seeker base,  
20 including individuals with barriers to employment, job  
21 seekers who are economically disadvantaged, women, younger  
22 workers, older workers or workers who previously have been  
23 incarcerated;

24

1           (ix) Assist employers in maintaining a constant  
2 and sufficient supply of available and qualified workers;

3

4           (x) Assist job seekers in enhancing their  
5 employability, career potential and labor market rewards.

6

7           **9-2-2905. Industry partnership account; proposals;**  
8 **grants; rulemaking.**

9

10          (a) The industry partnership account is created in  
11 the department to support industry partnerships and to  
12 implement industry identified solutions.

13

14          (b) A competitive grant program shall be established  
15 by the department that provides support to industry  
16 partnerships and to implement industry identified  
17 solutions.

18

19          (c) Grants shall be used to meet the goals under W.S.  
20 9-2-2904(a).

21

22          (d) The department shall:

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1           (i) Establish grant guidelines and develop grant  
2 applications;

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4           (ii) Develop forms and promulgate rules and  
5 regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions  
6 of this section, which at a minimum shall include:

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8                   (A) A competitive application process;

9

10                   (B) A process to review applications;

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12                   (C) A process for providing applicants with  
13 additional information about eligibility requirements and  
14 assistance in preparing applications;

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16                   (D) A procedure for establishing  
17 eligibility requirements for industry partnerships, which  
18 at a minimum shall include:

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20                           (I) Three (3) or more employers;

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22                           (II) One (1) education or training  
23 entity;

24



1 (III) One (1) economic development  
2 entity;

3

4 (IV) One (1) person representing the  
5 department; and

6

7 (V) A private sector in-kind or cash  
8 matching fund of at least fifty percent (50%) of a grant  
9 awarded under this article.

10

11 (e) A grant may be awarded to an approved industry  
12 partnership to identify or implement industry identified  
13 solutions, subject to available funds. Any proposal for a  
14 grant shall be filed with the department on or before July  
15 31 of each calendar year. A grant shall not be awarded for  
16 the purchase, lease or repair of equipment or capital  
17 construction, but may include textbooks or manuals. A  
18 grant awarded to an industry partnership to implement  
19 industry identified solutions shall be for a period not to  
20 exceed two (2) years and shall not exceed one million  
21 dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for the first year and shall not  
22 exceed eight hundred seventy-five thousand dollars  
23 (\$875,000.00) for the second year. Thereafter, no state  
24 assistance shall be provided for the industry partnership

1 to implement industry identified solutions funded under  
2 this section.

3

4 (f) The department shall provide technical assistance  
5 to grantees during the grant period.

6

7 (g) Following review of all applications submitted  
8 under this section, the department shall notify each  
9 applicant of the department's decision and shall provide  
10 each applicant a written statement of reasons for approving  
11 or denying the application. If the application is  
12 approved, the department shall award the grant from the  
13 amounts made available by the legislative appropriation for  
14 purposes of this section.

15

16 **9-2-2906. Evaluation; reports; rulemaking.**

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18 (a) The department shall create and implement an  
19 evaluation system that:

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21 (i) Collects critical industry partnership  
22 information on an annual basis or more frequently as  
23 determined by the department;

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1           (ii) Defines the benefits of the partnership and  
2 its activities to employers, workers and communities; and

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4           (iii) Provides performance information to the  
5 public and workforce stakeholders.

6

7           (b) The department shall coordinate year end reviews  
8 of each industry partnership grantee and produce a  
9 comprehensive industry sector overview report that includes  
10 the results of the industry partnership grantee in meeting  
11 the goals pursuant to W.S. 9-2-2904(a).

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13           (c) The department shall consult with the council  
14 before final adoption of rules and regulations under this  
15 section.

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17           (d) By September 1, 2010, the department shall report  
18 to the joint minerals, business and economic development  
19 interim committee on the funds awarded under this article.  
20 The report shall include partnerships funded, the impact of  
21 the partnerships, any industry identified solutions, the  
22 impact of the industry identified solutions on current,  
23 projected and emerging shortages in the Wyoming economy,  
24 industry, employer and employee participation in workforce

1 programs, systemic changes that benefited industries,  
2 employers and employees, partners' ability to streamline  
3 efforts and resources and the results of the expenditures  
4 appropriated.

5

6 **Section 2.**

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8 (a) There is appropriated four million dollars  
9 (\$4,000,000.00) from the general fund to the department of  
10 workforce services. This appropriation shall be for the  
11 period beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010.  
12 This appropriation shall only be expended for grants  
13 awarded pursuant to W.S. 9-2-2905(e).

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15 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
16 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
17 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
18 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
19 by law on June 30, 2010. This appropriation shall not be  
20 included in the department of workforce service's 2011-2012  
21 standard biennial budget request.

22

23 **Section 3.**

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1           (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
2 section, this act is effective July 1, 2009.

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4           (b) Section 1 of this act is effective immediately  
5 upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become  
6 law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
7 Constitution.

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9

(END)