

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0035

Select committee on the transfer of public land.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the legislature; establishing the select
2 committee on the transfer of public land as specified;
3 providing a definition; providing a sunset date; providing
4 an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 28-11-601 is created to read:

9

10 ARTICLE 6

11 SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LAND

12

13 **28-11-601. Appointment of members; powers and duties;**
14 **sunset.**

15

1 (a) Not later than March 15 following each general
2 election, a select committee on the transfer of public land
3 shall be appointed subject to the following:

4
5 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint
6 two (2) members of the senate apportioned as nearly as
7 possible to reflect the percentage of the elected
8 membership of the majority and minority parties of the
9 senate, provided that not more than three (3) members of
10 the select committee shall be from the same political
11 party;

12
13 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives
14 shall appoint two (2) members of the house apportioned as
15 nearly as possible to reflect the percentage of the elected
16 membership of the majority and minority parties of the
17 house, provided that not more than three (3) members of the
18 select committee shall be from the same political party.

19
20 (b) The select committee shall:

21
22 (i) Select from among its members two (2)
23 members to serve as co-chairmen;

24

1 (ii) Determine the potential structure of
2 ownership of public lands within the state including
3 consideration of the state owning the surface rights,
4 owning the subsurface rights, managing either the surface
5 or subsurface, or both, or other ownership and management
6 options as determined by the committee;

7

8 (iii) Determine criteria for management of
9 public lands including consideration of rights currently
10 existing under federal law;

11

12 (iv) Consider methods for the federal government
13 to divest public lands held within the state including
14 consideration of legal action and congressional action;

15

16 (v) Receive comments from local, county and
17 state agencies, as well as citizens of this state,
18 regarding issues related to the acquisition or management
19 of public lands;

20

21 (vi) Report to the joint agriculture, state and
22 public lands and water resources interim committee and the
23 joint minerals, business and economic development interim
24 committee by December 1 of each year, and recommend to the

1 joint agriculture, state and public lands and water
2 resources interim committee any and all legislation related
3 to the acquisition or management of federal public lands.

4
5 (c) The select committee may secure consulting
6 services, if necessary, to provide technical assistance in
7 compiling information related to public lands within the
8 state or other issues related to the transfer of public
9 lands.

10
11 (d) As used in this section, "public lands" means any
12 surface or subsurface lands within the boundaries of the
13 state, title to which is held by the federal government.
14 "Public lands" shall not include any land within the
15 boundaries of a designated national park, designated
16 national monument or wilderness area designated under the
17 national wilderness preservation system.

18
19 (e) This section is repealed effective January 1,
20 2018.

21
22 **Section 2.**

1 (a) Notwithstanding W.S. 28-11-601(a) as created by
2 this act, not later than ten (10) days after the effective
3 date of this act, a select committee on the transfer of
4 public lands shall be appointed as follows:

5
6 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint
7 two (2) members of the senate apportioned as nearly as
8 possible to reflect the percentage of the elected
9 membership of the majority and minority parties of the
10 senate, provided that not more than three (3) members of
11 the select committee shall be from the same political
12 party;

13
14 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives
15 shall appoint two (2) members of the house apportioned as
16 nearly as possible to reflect the percentage of the elected
17 membership of the majority and minority parties of the
18 house, provided that not more than three (3) members of the
19 select committee shall be from the same political party.

20
21 **Section 3.** There is appropriated twenty thousand
22 dollars (\$20,000.00) from the general fund to the
23 legislative service office. This appropriation shall only
24 be expended to provide salary, travel and per diem to

1 members of the select committee on the transfer of public
2 land for meetings held from the effective date of this act
3 through June 30, 2016 and for retaining consulting services
4 as necessary pursuant to W.S. 28-11-601(c). Notwithstanding
5 any other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be
6 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
7 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
8 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
9 2016.

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11 **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon
12 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
13 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
14 Constitution.

15

16 (END)