

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental quality-expedited permit reviews.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to environmental quality; providing for an  
2 expedited review process for any environmental quality  
3 permit application or any portion of the permit application  
4 as provided; providing for authorized permit review by  
5 qualified persons; and providing for an effective date.

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

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9 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-11-116 is created to read:

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11 **35-11-116. Expedited permit application; review by**  
12 **qualified party.**

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1           (a) To ensure timely processing of a permit  
2 application or any portion of a permit application provided  
3 in this chapter, an applicant may petition the director for  
4 the services of a qualified third party to review the  
5 permit application or any portions of the permit  
6 application.

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8           (b) The director may grant the petition submitted  
9 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section provided that:

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11                   (i) The director and the applicant agree the  
12 applicant will suffer severe economic harm if:

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14                           (A) The permit application, or any portion  
15 of a permit application, is not reviewed expeditiously; and

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17                           (B) The purpose of this section would be  
18 met by hiring a qualified third party to review the permit  
19 application or any portion of the permit application.

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21                           (ii) The applicant shall pay all the costs of  
22 the third party reviewer; and

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1           (iii) The third party review shall be conducted  
2 under the direct supervision of the administrator of the  
3 division responsible for issuing the permit.

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5           (c) The director shall recommend to the environmental  
6 quality council rules and regulations for the purpose of  
7 implementation of this section. These rules and  
8 regulations shall, at a minimum include:

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10           (i) Criteria to qualify third party reviewers;

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12           (ii) Criteria to determine potential conflicts  
13 of interest of third party reviewers;

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15           (iii) Criteria to be used to meet the  
16 requirements of paragraph (b) (i) of this section.

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18           (d) Except for the provisions relating to the time  
19 for review and time for approval, the approval of any final  
20 permit reviewed under this section, including any  
21 conditions associated with the final permit, is subject to  
22 all requirements of the Environmental Quality Act.

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1           **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon  
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
4 Constitution.

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(END)