

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0053

Name changes-sealed.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Warren and Gingery and
Senator(s) Aullman and Sessions

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to change of name proceedings in district
2 court; allowing records of change of name proceedings to be
3 sealed in certain cases for safety reasons; and providing
4 for an effective date.

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 1-25-105 is created to read:

9

10 **1-25-105. Sealed record proceedings.**

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12 (a) The court may allow a petition for a name change
13 to proceed on a sealed record basis under this section and
14 may order the records in the proceeding to be sealed if the
15 petitioner submits satisfactory proof to the court that the
16 petitioner desiring a change of name or the petitioner's

1 child or ward has been the victim of domestic abuse as
2 defined by W.S. 35-21-102(a)(iii) or child abuse as defined
3 by W.S. 14-3-202(a)(ii) and that the safety of the
4 petitioner or the petitioner's child or ward warrants
5 sealing the file.

6
7 (b) If the court allows the petition to proceed on a
8 sealed record basis under this section, the residency and
9 publication requirements under W.S. 1-25-102 and 1-25-103
10 shall not apply.

11
12 (c) All papers and records pertaining to a sealed
13 record petition under this section shall be kept as a
14 permanent record of the court but shall be opened for
15 inspection only upon an order of the court for good cause
16 shown or upon the request of the petitioner.

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18 **Section 2.** W.S. 1-25-101 through 1-25-103 are amended
19 to read:

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21 **1-25-101. Verified petition to be presented;**
22 **information to be shown in petition; order of court making**
23 **change; record to be made.**

1 Every person desiring to change his name may petition the
2 district court of the county of the petitioner's residence
3 for the desired change. The petition shall be verified by
4 affidavit setting forth the petitioner's full name, the
5 name desired, a concise statement of the reason for the
6 desired change, the place of his birth, his place of
7 residence and the length of time he has been an actual bona
8 fide resident of the county in which the petition is filed.
9 If the court is satisfied that the desired change is proper
10 and not detrimental to the interests of any other person,
11 it shall order the change to be made, and, subject to W.S.
12 1-25-105, record the proceedings in the records of the
13 court.

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15 **1-25-102. Residence requirement.**

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17 Except as provided in W.S. 1-25-105, a person petitioning
18 for a change of name shall have been a bona fide resident
19 of the county in which the petition is filed for at least
20 two (2) years immediately preceding filing the petition.

21

22 **1-25-103. Notice to be given by publication.**

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1 Except as provided in W.S. 1-25-105, public notice of the
2 petition for a change of name shall be given in the same
3 manner as service by publication upon nonresidents in civil
4 actions.

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

10

11

(END)