

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0305

Land access study.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Roscoe, Haley and Paxton

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state lands; authorizing specified state  
2 agencies to cooperate to study land opportunities; requiring  
3 a study; requiring reporting; providing for an appropriation;  
4 and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1. Wyoming public lands access study.**

9

10 (a) The department of state parks and cultural  
11 resources, the office of state lands and investments and the  
12 Wyoming wildlife and natural resources trust, in consultation  
13 with other state agencies and federal agencies, shall jointly  
14 conduct a study to identify opportunities for the state of  
15 Wyoming to grow the outdoor recreation industry in Wyoming

1 through increased access to public land parcels not legally  
2 accessible to the public. The study shall include:

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4 (i) A summary of current reports and existing  
5 information describing the nature and extent of public land  
6 parcels not legally accessible to the public in Wyoming;

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8 (ii) An examination of options to create access to  
9 public land parcels not legally accessible to the public and  
10 including short or long-term contracts, leases or other  
11 agreements with private landowners as well as consideration  
12 of terms and other restrictions needed by private land owners  
13 in such agreements;

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15 (iii) Opportunities and designs for a state  
16 managed program or expansion of a current state program to  
17 incentivize willing landowner participation to create greater  
18 access to public land parcels not legally accessible to the  
19 public;

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21 (iv) An analysis of the best mechanisms to provide  
22 public notice or other information regarding access to public  
23 land parcels not legally accessible to the public;

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2           (v) An analysis of mechanisms and opportunities  
3 for long-term funding of the proposed access program,  
4 compensation to landowners, and considerations of how school  
5 trust land access for recreation can be enhanced and how  
6 revenue may be generated.

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8           (b) The department of state parks and cultural  
9 resources, the office of state lands and investments and the  
10 Wyoming wildlife and natural resources trust shall:

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12           (i) Conduct outreach to anticipated stakeholders  
13 including private landowners, user groups and other outdoor  
14 recreation stakeholders;

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16           (ii) Conduct public meetings around the state to  
17 investigate the needs, priorities and other relevant  
18 considerations necessary in order to increase public access  
19 to landlocked public lands.

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21           (c) The agencies shall report the results of the study  
22 and a summary of the input received from the public to the

1 joint travel, recreation, wildlife and cultural resources  
2 interim committee no later than July 1, 2020.

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4 (d) As used in this section:

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6 (i) "Public land parcels not legally accessible to  
7 the public" means public land that cannot be accessed by a  
8 public road, right-of-way, easement, public waters, adjoining  
9 public land or private land because the private landowner has  
10 not granted permission to cross;

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12 (ii) "Public land" means:

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14 (A) Any land under the jurisdiction of the  
15 state, which the public is authorized to use without obtaining  
16 legal permission from a private landowner;

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18 (B) Federal land which the public is  
19 authorized to use without obtaining separate legal  
20 permission.

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22 **Section 2.** There is appropriated fifty thousand dollars  
23 (\$50,000.00) from the general fund to the department of state

1 parks and cultural resources. This appropriation shall be  
2 for the period beginning with the effective date of this act  
3 and ending June 30, 2020. This appropriation shall only be  
4 expended to fund the study and public meetings authorized in  
5 this act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
6 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
7 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining  
8 from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on  
9 June 30, 2020.

10

11 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

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(END)