## SENATE FILE NO. SF0157

Attorney general-elected official.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Bouchard and Representative(s) Clem

## A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the attorney general; providing for the election of the attorney general; designating the attorney 2 general as a state elected official; setting the attorney 3 4 general's term of office; providing for filling a vacancy in the position; repealing provision for interim appointment; 5 providing for the application of the Ethics and Disclosure 6 7 Act to the office of the attorney general; amending certain 8 provisions regarding actions the attorney general takes 9 requiring approval of or pursuant to the direction of the 10 governor; prescribing additional duties of the attorney 11 general; making conforming amendments; and providing for effective dates. 12

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

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         Section 1. W.S. 9-1-601, 9-5-101(a), 9-5-109(m)(iii),
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    22-2-105(a)(ii)(intro) and 22-6-117(a)(iv) are amended to
 3
    read:
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 5
         9-1-601. Appointment; term; removal; special assistant
    for legislative affairs; qualifications.
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              Until the term of office commences following the
    general election in 2022, the attorney general of the state
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    of Wyoming shall be appointed by the governor with the advice
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    and consent of the senate in accordance with W.S. 28-12-101
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    through 28-12-103 and may be removed by the governor as
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    provided in W.S. 9-1-202. Beginning at the general election
    in 2022, the attorney general shall be elected in a statewide
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    election for a term of four (4) years.
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         (b) Prior to the general election in 2022, if a newly
    elected governor appoints an attorney general to take office
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    prior to or during the legislative session next following the
20
    governor's election, the newly appointed attorney general
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    designee shall become a member of the attorney general's staff
    to serve as a special assistant to the governor for
22
    legislative affairs. When the legislative session adjourns
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- 1 the attorney general's term of office shall terminate.
- 2 Following the general election in 2022, the term of an
- 3 <u>attorney general appointed under this section shall terminate</u>
- 4 the first Monday in January next following the general
- 5 election.

- 7 (c) Prior to his To be eligible for appointment or
- 8 <u>election</u>, the attorney general shall have been a practicing
- 9 attorney for at least four (4) years. At the date of
- 10 appointment, he shall be in good standing in the courts of
- 11 record of this state and shall be a resident and elector of
- 12 the state.

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- 14 9-5-101. State building commission; composition;
- 15 general powers and duties; conflicts of interest.

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- 17 (a) The five (5) elected state officers governor,
- 18 <u>secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer and state</u>
- 19 <u>superintendent of public instruction shall</u> constitute the
- 20 state building commission. The governor shall be chairman of
- 21 the commission, but in his absence from any meeting, one (1)
- 22 of the members may act as chairman, and shall preside at the

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meeting. All votes taken to decide the commission's final 1 2 action on any matter shall be recorded. 3 4 9-5-109. Advisory task force on capitol building rehabilitation and restoration; composition; duties; account 5 created. 6 7 8 (m) The advisory task force shall be comprised of: 9 10 (iii) Five (5) members, one (1) each appointed by 11 each of the five (5) statewide elected officials the governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer and state 12 13 superintendent of public instruction; 14 22-2-105. Terms of office and offices voted on at 15 16 general elections. 17 (a) The terms of office and offices voted on at general 18 19 elections are as follows: 20 21 (ii) Four Year Term. - At the general election in 1974 and in every fourth (4th) year thereafter, there shall 22

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be elected the following officers: one (1) governor, one (1)

- 1 secretary of state, one (1) state treasurer, one (1) state
- 2 auditor, one (1) superintendent of public instruction, county
- 3 clerks, county treasurers, county assessors, county coroners,
- 4 county and prosecuting attorneys, district attorneys,
- 5 sheriffs, clerks of the district court. At every general
- 6 election there shall be elected the necessary member or
- 7 members of the Wyoming senate and county commissioners. At
- 8 the general election in 2022 and every fourth year thereafter,
- 9 there shall be elected an attorney general. The question of
- 10 retention of a circuit court judge or a magistrate of the
- 11 circuit court shall be submitted:

- 22-6-117. Order of listing offices in partisan
- 14 elections.

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- 16 (a) The major party primary and general partisan
- 17 election ballots shall contain the offices to be voted on in
- 18 the following order:

- 20 (iv) Candidates for governor, secretary of state,
- 21 state auditor, state treasurer, the attorney general
- 22 beginning at the 2022 primary and general election, and
- 23 superintendent of public instruction;

1 2 **Section 2.** W.S. 1-26-509(k), 1-31-103, 1-35-103(a), 3 1-35-104, 7-3-102, 7-22-101(a)(vi), 7-22-102(a) through (d), 4 7-22-108(a), 8-1-102(a)(xii), 8-2-101(a)(vi), 9-1-101(b), 5 9-1-211(a) by creating a new paragraph (vi) and by renumbering (vi) through (viii) as (vii) through (ix), 9-1-602, 6 9-1-603(b) and (c), 9-1-604, 9-1-605(b) through (d), 7 8 9-1-608(a) and (b), 9-1-611(c), 9-1-633(a) and (b)(intro), 9 9-2-636(b) and (c)(intro), 9-2-1016(h)(i), 9-4-218(a)(iii), 10 9-13-102(a)(xii)(A) and (xvi), 9-13-108(a)(intro), 9-14-101, 9-14-102(c), 18-3-902(a), 28-1-115(g)(ii), 35-7-1004, 11 12 35-11-1507(a) and 35-21-110(a) are amended to read: 13 14 1-26-509. Negotiations; scope of efforts to purchase. 15 16 (k) Attorney's fees and other expenses awarded under 17 this section from a public entity to a condemnee shall be 18 reported by the public entity which paid the fees, to the 19 Wyoming attorney general within sixty (60) days of the award. 20 The Wyoming attorney general shall collect this data and 21 report annually to the governor joint revenue interim committee and joint judiciary interim committee on the amount 22

of all taxpayer funded fee awards, beginning July 31, 2014.

- 1 The report shall identify the name of each party to whom an
- 2 award was made, the name of each counsel of record
- 3 representing each party to whom an award was made, the public
- 4 agency which paid each award and the total amount of each
- 5 award.

7 1-31-103. Commencement of action.

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- 9 The attorney general or a county attorney shall may commence
- 10 an action when directed by the governor, supreme court or
- 11 legislature, or when upon complaint or otherwise he has good
- 12 reason to believe that such an action can be established by
- 13 proof. The attorney general may commence an action when
- 14 requested by the governor, supreme court or legislature. A
- 15 county attorney shall commence an action when directed by the
- 16 governor, supreme court or legislature.

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- 18 1-35-103. Violation of state contracts to be reported
- 19 to attorney general; investigation; action to recover
- 20 damages; employment of special assistants.

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- 22 (a) Any officer, board or commission of the state of
- 23 Wyoming, or their legal counsel, responsible for the

1 enforcement of any contract between the state of Wyoming and 2 any person, having reason to believe that there has been a 3 violation of the terms of the contract to the damage of the 4 state of Wyoming, shall report the matter to the attorney 5 general of the state of Wyoming. The attorney general shall make such investigation of the matter as is necessary. Upon 6 completion of the investigation and finding of probable 7 8 damages to the state of Wyoming, the attorney general may 9 bring suit in any court of competent jurisdiction to recover 10 all damages that the state of Wyoming may have incurred by 11 reason of the breach of contract, or for any money or other property that may be due on the contract. Subject to the 12 13 governor's approval he The attorney general may employ specially qualified assistants or counsel to aid in any 14 15 investigation of such action.

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17 1-35-104. Actions under control of attorney general;
18 settlement or compromise with approval of governor.

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The attorney general shall control all investigations and actions instituted and conducted in behalf of the state as provided in W.S. 1-35-103 and has full discretionary powers to prosecute all investigations and litigation and, with the

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1	approval of the governor, to settle, compromise or dismiss
2	the actions.
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4	7-3-102. Appointment of attorney general to represent
5	state on joint commissions.
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7	The governor shall appoint the attorney general is hereby
8	appointed as the commissioner who shall represent Wyoming
9	upon any joint commission created by Wyoming and any one (1)
10	or more states for the purpose of negotiating and entering
11	into agreements or compacts for cooperative effort and mutual
12	assistance in the prevention of crime and in the enforcement
13	of the respective criminal laws and policies of Wyoming and
14	any other state and for the establishment of agencies deemed
15	desirable for making effective any agreement or compact.
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17	7-22-101. Definitions.
18	
19	(a) As used in this article:
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21	(vi) " <del>Five (5) <u>Six (6)</u> state elected officials"</del>

means the governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state

treasurer, attorney general and superintendent of public 1 2 instruction; 3 4 7-22-102. Authority to contract; general conditions. 5 6 (a) The state or a local government may contract with private entities for the construction, lease (as lessor or 7 8 lessee), acquisition, improvement, operation, maintenance, 9 purchase or management of facilities and services as provided 10 in this article, but only after receiving the consent of the five (5) six (6) state elected officials as to site, number 11 12 of beds and classifications of inmates or prisoners to be 13 housed in the facility. 14 No contract shall be entered into or renewed unless 15 16 the contracting governmental entity, with the concurrence of the five (5) six (6) state elected officials, determines the 17 contract offers substantial cost savings to the contracting 18 19 governmental entity and at least the same quality of services 20 provided by the state or by similar local governments. 21 22 (c) After receiving the majority consent of the five 23  $\frac{(5)}{\sin(6)}$  state elected officials as to the site, number of

1 beds and classifications of inmates or prisoners to be housed

2 in the facility, the state or the local government may

3 contract with private entities for the construction, lease

4 (as lessor or lessee), acquisition, improvement, operation,

5 maintenance, purchase or management of facilities, either:

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(d) The state or the local government may reject or 7 return prisoners from outside the state. Prisoners or inmates 8 9 of out-of-state, nonfederal jurisdictions shall not be 10 incarcerated in any facility operated by a local government entity under this article without the consent of the majority 11 12 of the five (5) six (6) state elected officials. of this 13 state. At no time shall the number of prisoners from out-of-state, nonfederal jurisdictions incarcerated in a 14 facility operated by a local government entity under this 15 16 article exceed thirty percent (30%) of the capacity of that facility. Any out-of-state, nonfederal prisoner shall be 17 returned to the jurisdiction of origin to be released from 18 19 custody by them, outside the state of Wyoming at the 20 appropriate time.

21

7-22-108. Monitoring; right of access.

section.

1 2 8-1-102. Definitions. 3 4 (a) As used in the statutes unless the legislature 5 clearly specifies a different meaning or interpretation or 6 the context clearly requires a different meaning: 7 (xii) "Elected state official" means the governor, 8 9 secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, attorney 10 general and superintendent of public instruction; 11 12 8-2-101. Distribution of statutes, supplements and 13 session laws. 14 Statutes, supplements and session laws shall be 15 (a) 16 distributed as provided by contract with the publisher or as 17 directed by the management council, to the following, without 18 charge: 19 20 (vi) One (1) copy to each of the  $\frac{\text{five }(5)}{\text{six }(6)}$ elected state officers; 21 22

1 9-1-101. Location of seat of government; residence of 2 state officials; deputies authorized; state superintendent of 3 public instruction physical office designation. 4 5 The governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, attorney general and state superintendent of 6 public instruction shall reside and maintain their offices at 7 8 the seat of government. 9 10 9-1-211. Vacancy in office of governor; successor 11 designated; order of succession; proclamation on succession. 12 (a) If the governor is removed, dies, resigns or is 13 unable to act, the state officer appearing highest on the 14 15 following list who satisfies all constitutional 16 qualifications for governor and is not under impeachment by 17 the house of representatives shall act as governor until the 18 disability of the governor is removed or a new governor is 19 elected and qualified: 20 21 (vi) Attorney general;

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              (vi)(vii) State superintendent of public
 2
    instruction;
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             (vii) (viii) Vice-president of the senate;
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              (viii)(ix) Speaker pro tem of the house of
    representatives.
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         9-1-602. Vacancy in office.
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    In case of A vacancy in the office of attorney general the
    governor shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy
12
    in accordance with the provisions of W.S. 28-12-101(b)shall
13
    be filled as provided by W.S. 22-18-111 except the vacancy
14
    shall be subject to senate confirmation as provided in W.S.
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16
    28-12-101 through 28-12-103.
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         9-1-603. Duties generally; retention of qualified
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19
    practicing attorneys; matters in which county or state is
20
    party or has interest; assistance to county and district
21
    attorneys in felony trials; coordination of county and school
    safety activities.
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1 (b) With the approval of the governor  $\underline{\mathbf{T}}$ he attorney

2 general may retain qualified practicing attorneys to

3 prosecute fee-generating suits for the state if expertise in

4 a particular field is desirable.

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(c) Upon the failure or refusal of any district or 6 county attorney to act in any criminal or civil case or matter 7 8 in which the county, state or any agency thereof is a party, 9 or has an interest, the attorney general may, at the request 10 of the board of county commissioners of the county involved or of the district judge of the judicial district involved, 11 12 act on behalf of the county, state or any agency thereof, if 13 after a thorough investigation the action is deemed advisable by the attorney general. The cost of investigation and the 14 cost of any prosecution arising therefrom shall be paid out 15 16 of the general fund of the county where the investigation and 17 prosecution take place. The attorney general shall may also, upon direction of the governor, investigate any matter in any 18 19 county of the state in which the county, state or any agency 20 thereof may be interested. After investigation, the attorney 21 general shall submit a report of the investigation to the 22 governor and to the district or county attorney of each county

1 involved and may take such other action as he deems

2 appropriate.

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4 9-1-604. Office in state capital; private practice

5 prohibited; exception.

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7 The attorney general shall keep an office in the state

8 capital, shall not open an office elsewhere and shall not

9 engage in any private practice except to consummate business

10 pending at the time of his appointment election if not in

11 conflict with the duties of his office.

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9-1-605. Approval of public securities and official

14 bonds; water rights proceedings; investigation of misconduct

15 of county official; report to governor; commencement of

16 action.

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18 (b) Under the direction of the governor The attorney

19 general shall institute and pursue proceedings to maintain

20 the state's and its citizens' rights in the waters of

21 interstate streams.

(c) Upon representation to the governor attorney general of misconduct or malfeasance in office or the commission of a crime by any county officer in the state and if the governor attorney general believes the ends of justice demand or the matter will not be properly investigated and prosecuted by the sheriff and by the district attorney of the county, the governor may direct the attorney general to may investigate the case.

(d) Upon completion of the investigation, the attorney general shall report the results of the investigation and his recommendations to the governor. If the governor and the attorney general determine that the attorney general should may institute a criminal or civil action, the attorney general shall commence the action as he deems appropriate. The attorney general shall have the authority and duty vested in district attorneys in this state.

## 19 9-1-608. Assistant attorneys general.

(a) With the approval of the governor, The attorney general may appoint assistant attorneys general necessary for the efficient operation of his office. Each assistant

1 attorney general shall be a member in good standing of the

2 Wyoming bar and shall serve at the pleasure of the attorney

3 general. The assistants shall act under the direction of the

4 attorney general and his deputies. The attorney general, his

5 deputies or his assistants may appear in any courts of the

6 state or the United States and prosecute or defend on behalf

7 of the state. An appearance by the attorney general or his

8 staff does not waive the sovereign immunity of the state.

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10 (b) With the approval of the governor The attorney 11 general may appoint special assistant attorneys general for 12 any purposes. A person shall not be employed as an attorney 13 or legal counsel by any department, board, agency, commission or institution of the state, or represent the state in that 14 15 capacity, except by the written appointment of the attorney 16 general. Written appointment of the attorney general shall 17 not be required for the employment of legal counsel by elected

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state officials.

9-1-611. Division of criminal investigation; created;
21 definitions; director; appointment; qualifications.

1 (c) With the approval of the governor,  $\underline{\mathbf{T}}$ he attorney

2 general shall appoint a director who is the chief

3 administrative officer and chief agent of the division.

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5 9-1-633. Wyoming law enforcement academy; director;

6 appointment; term; qualifications; employees; salaries;

curriculum and training programs; fees; disposition.

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9 (a) A director of the Wyoming law enforcement academy

10 shall be appointed by the attorney general with the consent

11 of the governor. The director and shall serve at the pleasure

12 of the attorney general governor. He The director shall have

13 administrative and operational experience in criminal justice

14 and such other qualifications as are satisfactory to the

15 attorney general governor.

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17 (b) The director may employ assistants, instructors and

18 other personnel as approved by the attorney general. with the

19 consent of the governor. The attorney general may appoint the

20 director as a peace officer, if qualified pursuant to W.S.

21 9-1-701 through 9-1-707. The director may appoint full-time

22 staff instructors who qualify pursuant to W.S. 9-1-701

23 through 9-1-707 to perform as peace officers. Persons

appointed as peace officers pursuant to this subsection shall 1 2 be considered peace officers only: 3 4 9-1-636. Division of victim services; created; appointment of director and deputy director; administrative 5 and clerical employees; definitions. 6 7 8 (b) With the approval of the governor, The attorney general shall appoint a director who is the 9 chief administrative officer of the division. The director is 10 responsible to the attorney general for the operation of the 11 12 division and shall serve at the pleasure of the attorney general. 13 14 (c) With the consent of the attorney general and the 15 16 governor, and subject to legislative appropriation, the 17 director may: 18 19 9-2-1016. General services division. 20 21 (h) The general services division shall:

1 (i) Manage and control all state motor vehicles

2 and equipment including their identification, purchase,

3 lease, replacement, repair and permanent assignment, except

4 for state owned or leased vehicles personally used by or

5 assigned to the governor, secretary of state, state auditor,

6 state treasurer, attorney general or superintendent of public

7 instruction;

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9 9-4-218. Federal natural resource policy account

10 created; purposes.

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12 There is created an account known as the "federal 13 natural resource policy account." Funds within the account 14 may be expended by the governor on behalf of the state of Wyoming and its local governments, to take any of the actions 15 16 specified in this subsection in response to federal land, 17 water, air, mineral and other natural resource policies which may affect the tax base of the state, wildlife management, 18 19 state species, recreation, private property rights, water 20 rights or leasehold rights. Funds also may be expended for 21 preparing and participating in environmental impact 22 statements and environmental assessments, including analysis 23 of economic or social and natural or physical environmental

1 effects on the human environment. Funds also may be expended

2 for coordinating and participating in rangeland health

3 assessments pursuant to W.S. 11-2-207. The governor may

4 expend funds from the federal natural resource policy account

5 for:

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7 (iii) Investigating, initiating, intervening or 8 otherwise participating in litigation, or taking any other

9 legal action by the state, a state agency or the counties of

10 the state individually or jointly, that furthers the purposes

11 of this subsection. In carrying out this subsection, the

12 attorney general or the counties, with approval of the

13 governor, may retain qualified practicing attorneys to act

14 for the state or the counties, including providing

15 representation in other forums with the federal government or

other state or county governments that may preclude or resolve

17 any outstanding issues or attempting to influence pertinent

18 federal legislation;

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20 **9-13-102.** Definitions.

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22 (a) As used in this article:

January 15 of that year:

1 (xii) "Public employee" means any of the following 2 state employees: 3 4 (A) The attorney general and the director of any department of the executive branch appointed by the 5 6 governor under W.S. 9-2-1706, or the director of legislative agency; 7 8 9 (xvi) "State office" means the state offices of governor, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, 10 11 auditor, secretary of state, attorney general and member of 12 the state legislature; 13 9-13-108. Disclosure required. 14 15 16 (a) Not later than January 31 annually, each of the 17 state's five (5) six (6) elected officials and each member of the Wyoming legislature shall file a financial disclosure 18 19 form with the secretary of state. The form shall be signed by 20 the elected official or legislator filing it and under a certification that it is accurate. The financial disclosure 21 22 form shall contain the following information current as of

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2 9-14-101. Second amendment defense.

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4 The attorney general may seek to intervene or file an amicus 5 curiae brief in any lawsuit filed in any state or federal 6 court in Wyoming, or filed against any Wyoming citizen or firm in any other jurisdiction for damages for injuries as a 7 result of the use of fire arms that are not defective, if in 8 his judgment, the action endangers the constitutional right 9 10 of citizens of Wyoming to keep and bear arms. The attorney 11 general is directed to advance arguments that protect the 12 constitutional right to bear arms. Before intervening in any lawsuit pursuant to this section, the attorney general shall 13

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## 16 9-14-102. Unauthorized federal agency actions.

obtain the approval of the governor.

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18 (c) The attorney general may seek to take action before
19 the federal environmental protection agency, the federal
20 occupational safety and health administration or in any state
21 or federal court to stop the enforcement, administration or
22 implementation of rulemaking or other actions taken by those
23 agencies if, in his judgment, the rulemaking or other action

1 exceeds the authority granted by the United States congress

2 or otherwise rests on questionable authority. Before

3 intervening in or initiating any lawsuit pursuant to this

4 section, the attorney general shall obtain the approval of

5 the governor.

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7 18-3-902. Attorney general to commence action; petition

8 served with summons; pleading; trial; judgment; change of

9 judge.

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11 (a) Whenever it appears to the governor attorney 12 general on the verified complaint of qualified electors or 13 the board of county commissioners of the county that any county officer is guilty of misconduct or malfeasance in 14 15 office, he may direct the attorney general to may commence 16 and prosecute an action in the district court of the county 17 in which the officer is an official asking for the removal of the officer. The action shall be commenced by the filing of 18 19 a verified petition in the name of the state of Wyoming signed 20 by the attorney general setting forth the facts constituting

the misconduct or malfeasance in office.

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1 28-1-115. Submission of state agency plans to 2 legislature; contents; purposes. 3 4 (g) For purposes of this section and W.S. 28-1-116, 5 "state agency" means: 6 7 (ii) Offices of the five (5) elected state 8 officials and the attorney general governor, secretary of 9 state, state auditor, state treasurer, attorney general and 10 state superintendent of public instruction; and 11 12 35-7-1004. Personnel to administer provisions. 13 14 The attorney general by and with the consent of the governor 15 may employ such personnel as necessary to administer this 16 act. Such personnel shall serve at the pleasure of the 17 attorney general at such compensation as may be approved by the Wyoming personnel division. Said personnel shall be 18 19 assigned such duties as may be necessary to assist the 20 commissioner in the performance of his responsibilities under 21 this act for the efficient operation of the work of the office. 22

1 35-11-1507. Injunction proceedings; penalties.

(a) When, in the opinion of the governor attorney general, a person is violating or is about to violate any provision of this article, the governor attorney general shall direct the attorney general to apply to the appropriate court for an order enjoining the person from engaging or continuing to engage in the activity. Upon a showing that the person has engaged, or is about to engage in the activity, the court may grant a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order or other order.

35-21-110. Statewide protection order registry.

(a) The Wyoming attorney general or another agency designated by the governor shall establish a statewide registry of protection orders related to domestic violence and shall maintain a complete and systematic record and index of all valid temporary and final civil and criminal court orders of protection.

**Section 3.** W.S. 9-1-618(b)(i) is repealed.

1 Section 4. 2 3 (a) Sections 2 and 3 of this act are effective January 4 2, 2023. 5 (b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, this act is effective July 1, 2019. 7

8

9 (END)