

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0034

Youthful offender program-amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Judiciary Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the youthful offender program; amending  
2 the program name, eligibility requirements and programming  
3 emphases; authorizing the use of peer specialists;  
4 providing a definition; and providing for an effective  
5 date.

6

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

8

9       **Section 1.** W.S. 7-13-1001(a) by creating a new  
10 paragraph (ii) and by renumbering (ii) as (iii),  
11 7-13-1002(a) by creating a new paragraph (i) and by  
12 amending and renumbering (i) and (ii) as (ii) and (iii) and  
13 7-13-1003(a), (b)(intro), (ii), by creating a new paragraph  
14 (iv), (c)(i), (ii) and (d) are amended to read:

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16

ARTICLE 10

## 1                   YOUTHFUL OFFENDER TRANSITION PROGRAM

2

3           **7-13-1001. Definitions.**

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5           (a) As used in this article:

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7                   (ii) "Peer specialists" means long-term inmates  
8 who have completed certified training and been selected and  
9 assigned by the department to provide positive guided peer  
10 support to offenders involved in the program under the  
11 direction of program staff, provided that peer specialists  
12 shall not have direct supervision over other inmates;

13

14                   ~~(ii)~~(iii) "Reduction of sentence" includes  
15 changing a sentence of incarceration to a grant of  
16 probation.

17

18           **7-13-1002. Sentence reduction for youthful offenders.**

19

20           (a) The sentencing court may reduce the sentence of  
21 any convicted felon who:

22

1            (i) Is recommended by the sentencing court for  
2 placement in the youthful offender transition program;

3  
4            ~~(i)~~(ii) Is certified by the department as having  
5 successfully completed the youthful offender transition  
6 program under W.S. 7-13-1003; and

7  
8            ~~(ii)~~(iii) Makes application to the court for a  
9 reduction in sentence within one (1) year after the  
10 individual began serving a sentence of incarceration at a  
11 state penal institution.

12  
13            **7-13-1003. Establishment of program; eligibility;**  
14 **rulemaking authority.**

15  
16            (a) The department shall adopt reasonable rules and  
17 regulations to establish a youthful offender transition  
18 program for inmates incarcerated in a state penal  
19 institution.

20  
21            (b) In addition to any other eligibility requirements  
22 adopted by the department, an inmate is eligible for

1 placement in the youthful offender transition program only  
2 if he:

3  
4 (ii) Has not attained the age of ~~twenty-five~~  
5 ~~(25)~~thirty (30) years;

6  
7 (iv) Is able to participate in the structured  
8 programming, education, work and physical fitness  
9 activities required of program participants in compliance  
10 with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

11  
12 (c) The program created by the department shall  
13 include:

14  
15 (i) Separation of program participants from the  
16 general inmate population except inmates assigned to work  
17 in the program as peer specialists;

18  
19 (ii) ~~Emphasis~~ Emphases upon structured  
20 programming, education, work and physical activity  
21 compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act as a  
22 major element of the program.

23

1           (d) Participation by an inmate in the youthful  
2 offender transition program is a matter of grace and not of  
3 right. Approval of an inmate's participation in the  
4 program may be revoked by the department at any time if the  
5 inmate fails to comply with program requirements. The  
6 inmate shall not have any right to appeal the denial of his  
7 participation in the program.

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9           **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2021.

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11

(END)