

## 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:*

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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;

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

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17           **7-13-1002. Sentence reduction for youthful offenders.**

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

21

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

1

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

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

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11           **7-13-1003. Establishment of program; eligibility;**  
12 **rulemaking authority.**

13

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

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19           (b) In addition to any other eligibility requirements  
20 adopted by the department, an inmate is eligible for  
21 placement in the youthful offender transition program only  
22 if he:

23

1           (ii) Has not attained the age of ~~twenty-five~~  
2 ~~(25)~~thirty (30) years;

3  
4           (iv) Is able to participate in the structured  
5 programming, education, work and physical fitness  
6 activities required of program participants in compliance  
7 with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

8  
9           (c) The program created by the department shall  
10 include:

11  
12           (i) Separation of program participants from the  
13 general inmate population except inmates assigned to work  
14 in the program as peer specialists;

15  
16           (ii) ~~Emphasis~~ Emphases upon structured  
17 programming, education, work and physical activity  
18 compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act as a  
19 major element of the program.

20  
21           (d) Participation by an inmate in the youthful  
22 offender transition program is a matter of grace and not of  
23 right. Approval of an inmate's participation in the

1 program may be revoked by the department at any time if the  
2 inmate fails to comply with program requirements. The  
3 inmate shall not have any right to appeal the denial of his  
4 participation in the program.

5

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

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8

(END)