

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0197

Connect Wyoming program-federal funding.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Newsome, Barlow, Duncan,
Eklund, Eyre, Flitner, Greear and Sommers
and Senator(s) Cooper, Kost and Landen

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the emergency expenses of government
2 related to broadband internet access; authorizing the use
3 of federal funds related to the Connect Wyoming program for
4 broadband development in Wyoming; defining terms related to
5 funding the program; appropriating funds; providing
6 rulemaking authority; and providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.**

11

12 (a) As used in this section:

13

1 (i) "CARES Act" means the federal Coronavirus
2 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136,
3 including any amendments to that act;

4

5 (ii) "Connect Wyoming" means the program created
6 by the council that used available CARES Act funds for
7 broadband development projects in Wyoming necessary to
8 respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency by bringing
9 faster and more reliable broadband internet service in
10 unserved and underserved areas;

11

12 (iii) "Council" means the Wyoming business
13 council;

14

15 (iv) "Covered period" means the period beginning
16 on the effective date of this act and ending December 31,
17 2021 except that if the period for which allowable costs
18 may be incurred under section 601 of the federal Social
19 Security Act, as created by section 5001 of the CARES Act
20 and as amended by section 1001 of Division M of the
21 Consolidated Appropriations Act, also known as the
22 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations
23 Act, is further amended or superseded, or if subsequent

1 federal legislation is enacted that provides the state of
2 Wyoming additional funds in response to the COVID-19 public
3 health emergency, "covered period" shall mean the period
4 beginning on the effective date of this act and ending on
5 the last date of the period specified by federal law for
6 which allowable costs may be incurred.

7

8 (b) There is appropriated to the council up to forty
9 million dollars (\$40,000,000.00) or as much as is available
10 from any unexpended, unobligated funds appropriated in 2020
11 Wyoming Special Session Laws, Chapter 1, Section 2(b) and
12 as authorized and made available for expenditure in Section
13 2(c)(ii). If CARES Act funds are not available for any
14 portion of this appropriation, the joint appropriations
15 committee or any other committee tasked with developing
16 legislation to appropriate additional COVID-19 relief funds
17 shall consider including the remainder of this
18 appropriation in any draft legislation. The funds
19 appropriated under this subsection shall be used only for
20 broadband internet development projects through the Connect
21 Wyoming program and consistent with the terms of the
22 federal gift, grant or appropriation from which the funds
23 originate. This appropriation shall not be transferred or

1 expended for any other purpose. Any unobligated, unexpended
2 funds remaining from this appropriation on the last day of
3 the covered period shall revert as provided by law.

4

5 **Section 2.** The Wyoming business council shall
6 promulgate all rules necessary to implement the provisions
7 of this act.

8

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

13

14

(END)