

ARPA funds for water and wastewater projects.

22LSO-0240, 1.1

**FISCAL NOTE**

This bill contains an appropriation of \$95,000,000 to the Water Development Commission from any unexpended, unobligated AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS that were appropriated in 2021 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 166, Section 5(b). This appropriation will be expended as grants (0600 series Grant & Aid Payments) to entities eligible for funding pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for water and wastewater projects.

This bill creates the Wyoming Statewide American Rescue Plan Act Water Infrastructure Program. The Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) shall establish and administer this temporary program for the purpose of providing grants to entities for eligible projects. The Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shall consult with and provide technical assistance to the Wyoming Water Development Office in the establishment and administration of this temporary program.

OSLI and DEQ anticipate that existing staff from OSLI's Federal State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program and DEQ's Water Quality Program will assist the proposed program because of their expertise with federal funds and the use of ARPA funds. Since the majority of current salary and expenses related to these staff members are reimbursed back to the State from SRF Program and Water Quality program federal funds, the assistance provided by these staff members must be limited in order to not cause a deficit in OSLI's and DEQ's operating budgets related to personnel and salaries.

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HB0006