HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WYOMING STATE LEGISLATURE

Message No. 389

CONCURRENCE REQUESTED

Mr. President: February 26, 2025

S.F. No. 0152 Wildfire management-task force and state forester.

The Senate File listed above passed on third reading in an amended form as follows by the vote indicated.

SF0152HS001/ADOPTED (TO ENGROSSED COPY)

Page 2-line 21 Delete "subdivision" and insert "subdivisions".

Page 4-line 15 Delete "Two (2) members" and insert "One (1) member".

Page 4-line 17 Delete "one (1) of the members" and insert "the member".

Page 4-line 21 Delete "Two (2) members" and insert "One (1) member".

Page 4-line 23 Delete "one (1) of the members" and insert "the member".

Page 11-line 4 Delete "forty million dollars ($40,000,000.00)" and insert "thirty million dollars ($30,000,000.00)".

SF0152HW001/ADOPTED (TO ENGROSSED COPY)

Page 2-line 7 Strike "He" and insert "The state forester".

Page 2-line 8 Strike "He" and insert "The state forester".

SF0152H3001/ADOPTED (TO ENGROSSED COPY)

Page 1-above line 1 In the catch title, delete "task force and state forester" and insert "amendments".

Page 1-line 2 After "forester;" delete balance of line.

Page 1-line 3 Delete entirely.

Page 1-line 4 Delete "force; requiring reports;".

Page 4-lines 8 through 23 Delete entirely including the House standing committee amendment (SF0152HS001/AE) to these lines and renumber as necessary.

Pages 5 through 8 Delete entirely.

Page 9-lines 1 through 3 Delete entirely.

Page 9-line 5 Delete "**Section 3.**" and insert "**Section 2.**".

Page 11-line 1 Delete "**Section 4.**" and insert "**Section 3.**".

Page 11-line 13 Delete "**Section 5.**" and insert "**Section 4.**".

Page 11-line 15 Delete "3(a)" and insert "2(a)".

Page 11-line 18 Delete "3(a)(i)" and insert "2(a)(i)".

Page 11-line 23 Delete "3(a)" and insert "2(a)".

Page 12-line 2 Delete "3(a)(ii)" and insert "2(a)(ii)".

Page 12-line 8 Delete "3(a)" and insert "2(a)".

Page 12-line 10 Delete "3(a)(iii)" and insert "2(a)(iii)".

Page 12-line 15 Delete "3(a)" and insert "2(a)".

Page 12-line 17 Delete "3(b)" and insert "2(b)".

Page 13-line 2 Delete "section 4" and insert "section 3".

Page 13-line 8 Delete "**Section 6.**" and insert "**Section 5.**".

Page 13-line 11 Delete "**Section 7.**" and insert "**Section 6.**".

SF0152H3002/ADOPTED (TO ENGROSSED COPY)

Page 1-line 6 After "authorizations;" insert "authorizing loans; reverting funds; repealing prior appropriations;".

Page 1-line 7 Delete "an effective date" and insert "effective dates".

Page 11-after line 11 Insert and renumber as necessary:

"**Section 5.**

(a) The state loan and investment board is authorized to make loans under this section from the legislative stabilization reserve account for the purpose of mitigation and restoration projects needed as a result of wildfire and specified disasters that occur within the state of Wyoming. The aggregate sum of all loans made under this section shall not exceed one hundred fifty-two million two hundred twenty-nine thousand five hundred sixty-four dollars ($152,229,564.00). No new loans under this section shall be made after June 30, 2027.

(b) The office of state lands and investments, under the direction of the state loan and investment board, shall establish and administer loans under this section to qualified persons, including political subdivisions, for any of the following purposes:

(i) Restoring grass, hay and vegetation destroyed by wildfire or other natural disasters on state and private lands;

(ii) Preventing the establishment of non-native invasive terrestrial vegetation on private or state lands affected by wildfire or other natural disasters;

(iii) Replacing private fences destroyed or partially destroyed by wildfire or other natural disasters;

(iv) Replacing and restoring the habitat and the resources provided by that habitat destroyed by wildfire or other natural disasters on state and private land;

(v) Repairing or replacing irrigation facilities destroyed by wildfire or other natural disasters on state and private land;

(vi) Repairing or replacing private structures destroyed by wildfire or other natural disasters;

(vii) Providing funding for any private cost share required of federal or state funding that would otherwise qualify under this section;

(viii) Providing monetary assistance to farmers and ranchers whose real property or assets are damaged by catastrophic events. As used in this paragraph, "catastrophic event" means a fire, earthquake, breached dam or other natural or man-made event to a farming or ranching operation or to state land that causes monetary damage of at least one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000.00).

(c) All loan applications under this section shall be provided to the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust fund board for a recommendation to the state loan and investment board. All loans shall be subject to final approval by the state loan and investment board.

(d) The loan program established and administered by the office of state lands and investments under this section shall be subject to all of the following:

(i) All applicants for loans shall reasonably demonstrate that they have applied for insurance payments for which they are eligible and all reasonably identifiable and applicable federal and state funding or were not eligible for other reasonably identifiable and applicable federal or state funding;

(ii) Loans shall be secured by collateral from each applicant, which may include land, structures, equipment and livestock. Collateral required under this paragraph may be accepted in a subordinate lien position;

(iii) The office shall develop the application forms, requirements and conditions needed to ensure timely repayment of loans;

(iv) The office shall impose any other necessary loan terms;

(v) The maximum term of loans shall not exceed twenty (20) years;

(vi) The interest rate on all loans shall be two percent (2%).

(e) Interest payments received from loans under this section shall be deposited to the general fund, except that up to one-half (1/2) of all interest payments may be retained by the office of state lands and investments and are continuously appropriated for administration of the loan program. All principal payments shall be deposited to the legislative stabilization reserve account.

(f) The office of state lands and investments shall maintain any records and accounts of revenues and expenditures in relation to loans under this section as required by the director of the state department of audit. Not later than October 15 of each year in which the loan program is operational, the office shall report to the joint appropriations committee and the joint agriculture, state and public lands and water resources interim committee on the purposes and amount of loans approved under this section.

Section 6. 2022 Wyoming session laws, chapter 51, as amended by 2023 Wyoming session laws, chapter 94 and 2024 Wyoming session laws, chapter 118, section 321(f) is amended to read:

[ENERGY MATCHING FUNDS]

Section 321.

(f) Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207:~~,~~

(i) An amount such that the sum of the reverted funds under this subsection combined with any deappropriated funds under the repeal of 2024 Wyoming session laws, chapter 118, section 323, equals one hundred fifty-two million two hundred twenty-nine thousand five hundred sixty-four dollars ($152,229,564.00), or as much thereof as is available, shall revert to the budget reserve account on or before April 1, 2025; and

(ii) Any unexpended, unobligated funds from the appropriation in subsection (a) of this section remaining after the reversion of funds in paragraph (i) of this

subsection shall not revert until June 30, 2027.".

Page 11-line 13 Delete "**Section 5.**" and insert "**Section 7.**".

Page 13-lines 8 and 9 Delete entirely and insert and renumber as necessary:

"**Section 8.**

(a) 2024 Wyoming session laws, chapter 118, section 301(b) is repealed.

(b) 2024 Wyoming session laws, chapter 118, section 323 is repealed.".

Page 13-lines 11 through 14 Delete entirely and insert and renumber as necessary:

"**Section 9.**

(a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, this act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(b) Sections 5, 6 and 8(b) of this act shall not be effective if either 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001 are enacted into law.".

SF0152H3003/ADOPTED (TO ENGROSSED COPY)

Page 1-line 5 After "borrowing;" insert "authorizing grants;".

Page 1-line 7 Delete "an effective date" and insert "effective dates".

Page 11-after line 11 In the second Bear third reading amendment (SF0152H30XX/AE) to this line, in subsection 5(a) created by that amendment, delete " one hundred fifty-two million two hundred twenty-nine thousand five hundred sixty-four dollars ($152,229,564.00)" and insert "one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000.00)".

Page 11-before line 13 Insert:

"**Section 7.** There is appropriated two million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ($2,750,000.00) from the general fund to the office of state lands and investments and there is authorized one (1) full-time employee position and four (4) part-time employee positions for contract and direct fire response. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation be doubled and included in the office of state lands and investments' standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

Section 8. There is appropriated forty-nine million four hundred seventy-nine thousand five hundred sixty-four dollars ($49,479,564.00) from the general fund to the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust income account. These funds are continuously appropriated from the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust income account to the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust account board to provide grants to Wyoming conservation districts, weed and pest districts and the game and fish commission for purposes of restoring grass, hay and other vegetation destroyed by wildfires on private and state lands, preventing the establishment of nonnative, invasive terrestrial vegetation on private and state lands affected by wildfires and replacing and restoring habitats on private and state lands destroyed by wildfires. This appropriation shall be expended only for the purposes specified in this footnote. This appropriation shall not be subject to the requirements of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Funding Act. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the standard budget of the Wyoming wildlife and natural resource trust for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose.".

Page 11-line 13 Delete the second Bear third reading amendment (SF0152H30XX/AE) to this line; delete "**Section 5."** and insert "**Section 9.**".

Page 13-lines 8 and 9 In the second Bear third reading amendment (SF0152H30XX/AE) to these lines, delete "**Section 8.**" and insert "**Section 10.**".

Page 13-lines 11 through 14 Delete entirely including the second Bear third reading amendment (SF0152H30XX/A) to these lines and insert:

"**Section 11.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, this act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(b) Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10(b) of this act shall not be effective if either 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001 are enacted into law.".

To the extent required by this amendment: renumber as necessary.

Ayes 46 Noes 14 Excused 2 Absent 0 Conflict 0

The House respectfully asks the Senate to concur by adopting the listed amendments.

Sincerely,

Katie Talbott
House Chief Clerk

Bill Jacket Attached