

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

AN ACT relating to state lands; amending the duties of the state forester; providing appropriations; providing for the transfer of funds; authorizing borrowing; authorizing grants; repealing prior borrowing authorizations; authorizing loans; reverting funds; repealing prior appropriations; and providing for effective dates.

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

Section 1. W.S. 36-2-108(a), (b)(viii) and by creating new paragraphs (ix) through (xi) is amended to read:

36-2-108. Appointment of state forester; qualifications; duties.

(a) The state board of land commissioners shall appoint a state forester who shall be the administrative head of the Wyoming state forestry division of the office of state lands and investments. ~~He~~ The state forester shall serve at the pleasure of the board. ~~He~~ The state forester shall have a bachelor's degree in forestry with not less than four (4) years experience in professional forestry work. The state forester shall, under the general supervision of the board, have direction of all forest interest and all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of the state of Wyoming. ~~.; and may, with approval of the board, appoint such assistants and employees as are necessary in executing the duties of his office.~~

(b) The state forester shall:

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

(viii) Cooperate with federal agencies and all political subdivisions of the state to fulfill the intent of this section; ~~;~~

(ix) Adopt rules as necessary to fulfill the duties described in this article;

(x) Appoint assistants and employees as are necessary in executing the duties of the division;

(xi) Maintain wildland and forestry fire control programs including, but not limited to:

(A) Fire management, coordination and reimbursement for all lands owned and managed by the state of Wyoming and its agencies;

(B) Fire management assistance within the state of Wyoming;

(C) Pre-position suppression equipment, personnel and other resources during periods of high wildfire risk;

(D) Support for local fire jurisdiction training programs;

(E) Establishing standards and regulations for privately contracted private wildland fire resources operating in Wyoming. As used in this subparagraph, "privately contracted private fire resources" includes services retained by insurers for prevention and suppression activities on insured properties.

Section 2.

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

(a) There is appropriated from the general fund for the purpose of restoring funds expended by the state of Wyoming to suppress wildfires that occurred in calendar year 2024 the following amounts for the following programs or purposes:

(i) One million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for the special contingency division of the office of the governor, unit 0601;

(ii) One million two hundred sixty-three thousand nine hundred sixty-six dollars (\$1,263,966.00) for the disaster contingency unit within the homeland security division of the office of the governor, unit 1106;

(iii) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000.00) to the emergency fire suppression account within the office of state lands and investments.

(b) There is appropriated from the general fund up to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000.00), or as much thereof as is necessary, to be deposited by the state auditor in the legislative stabilization reserve account for repayment of funds borrowed on or before June 30, 2025 from the legislative stabilization reserve account under 2024 Wyoming session laws, chapter 118, section 301(b).

(c) Funds appropriated in this section shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207, funds appropriated in this section shall not lapse at the end of any fiscal period. Any unexpended, unobligated funds at the end of any fiscal period shall remain in the account to which the funds were appropriated and be expended for

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

the purposes specified by this section, except as otherwise provided by further legislative authorization.

Section 3. For the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, the governor is authorized to borrow from the legislative stabilization reserve account up to thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000.00) as necessary to meet funding requirements to fight wildfires in the event the reserves in the office of state lands and investments' forestry division have been exhausted. The governor shall report to the joint appropriations committee, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives immediately upon exercise of this authority.

Section 4.

(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 million dollars (\$100,000,000.00). 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:

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

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

(ii) Preventing the establishment of nonnative 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).

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

(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%).

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

(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 5. 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

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

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.

Section 6. 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 7. 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.

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

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.

Section 8.

(a) The appropriations in section 2(a) of this act shall be reduced in accordance with the following:

(i) The appropriation in section 2(a)(i) of this act shall be reduced by one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) appropriated in 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001 for the special contingency division of the office of the governor, unit 0601, for the purposes specified in section 2(a) of this act;

(ii) The appropriation in section 2(a)(ii) of this act shall be reduced by one dollar (\$1.00) for every

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

one dollar (\$1.00) appropriated in 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001 for the disaster contingency unit within the homeland security division of the office of the governor, unit 1106, for the purposes specified in section 2(a) of this act;

(iii) The appropriation in section 2(a)(iii) of this act shall be reduced by one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) appropriated in 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001 to the emergency fire suppression account within the office of state lands and investments for the purposes specified in section 2(a) of this act.

(b) The appropriation in section 2(b) of this act shall be reduced by one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) appropriated in 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001 to the legislative stabilization reserve account for the repayment of funds borrowed on or before June 30, 2025 from the account under 2024 Wyoming session laws, chapter 118, section 301(b).

(c) The borrowing authorization provided in section 3 of this act shall be reduced by one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) of borrowing authorization provided in section 301(b) of 2025 Senate File 0001 or section 301(b) of 2025 House Bill 0001.

Section 9.

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

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

ORIGINAL SENATE
FILE NO. SF0152

ENGROSSED

ENROLLED ACT NO. 62, SENATE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

Section 10.

(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 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9(b) of this act shall not be effective if either 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001 are enacted into law.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

Chief Clerk