

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0070

State parks peace officer-benefits.

Sponsored by: Joint Judiciary Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the Wyoming retirement system; providing
2 for limited participation in the law enforcement plan by
3 peace officers employed by the department of state parks
4 and cultural resources as specified; providing for
5 contributions; making an appropriation; and providing for
6 an effective date.

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

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10 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-3-432 by creating a new subsection
11 (o) is amended to read:

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13 **9-3-432. Law enforcement officers; contributions;**
14 **benefit eligibility; service and disability benefits; death**
15 **benefits; benefit options.**

16

1 (o) Any peace officer as defined by W.S.
2 6-1-104(a)(vi)(P) shall be eligible for disability benefits
3 and death benefits under this section to the same extent
4 and under the same conditions as law enforcement officers.
5 Contributions for the benefits shall be paid as follows:

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7 (i) The department of state parks and cultural
8 resources shall pay into the account a contribution equal
9 to one percent (1%) of the salary paid to the officer. No
10 additional contribution shall be imposed upon the state for
11 benefits provided peace officers under this subsection;

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13 (ii) Contributions under this subsection shall
14 be made monthly to the account in accordance with W.S.
15 9-3-413 and are subject to the provisions of W.S. 9-3-413
16 for delinquent contributions;

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18 (iii) Contributions under this subsection shall
19 be paid by the employer from the source of funds used to
20 pay peace officer salaries in order to be treated as
21 employer contributions for the sole purpose of determining
22 tax treatment under the United States Internal Revenue
23 Code, § 414(h).

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1 **Section 2.** Peace officers eligible for coverage under
2 W.S. 9-3-432(o) on the effective date of this act may elect
3 coverage under that subsection no later than August 1,
4 2014. The election shall be irrevocable. Death and
5 disability benefits shall be payable under W.S. 9-3-432(o)
6 to members who timely elect coverage under this section
7 irrespective of whether the disability condition arose out
8 of an injury or illness that occurred prior to the date of
9 coverage. Benefits shall not be payable, however, if the
10 application for benefits was made prior to the effective
11 date of this act. If no election is made under this
12 section, eligibility for death and disability benefits
13 shall be as otherwise provided under W.S. 9-3-422.

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15 **Section 3.** There is appropriated fifteen thousand
16 dollars (\$15,000.00) from the general fund to the Wyoming
17 retirement board for deposit to the retirement account
18 established by W.S. 9-3-407. This appropriation is to fund
19 additional actuarial liability resulting from the increase
20 in member benefits for existing park rangers due to this
21 act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
22 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
23 other purpose.

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1 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2014.

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(END)