

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0097

Wolf depredation compensation.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Winters, Allen, Northrup,
Petroff and Sommers and Senator(s) Kinskey

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to agriculture; creating a gray wolf
2 depredation compensation program; imposing additional
3 duties on the department of agriculture; authorizing
4 rulemaking; providing for termination of the program as
5 specified; requiring a report upon termination; providing
6 an appropriation; 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) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and
13 except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this
14 section, for the period beginning with the effective date
15 of this act and ending June 30, 2018, the department of

1 agriculture shall administer a program to compensate
2 landowners, lessees or their agents whose property is
3 damaged by a gray wolf in an area of the state where gray
4 wolves are classified as a predatory animal.

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6 (b) The department may employ or contract personnel
7 to assist in administering and investigating claims for
8 damages.

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10 (c) The department shall promulgate necessary rules
11 and regulations to carry out the purposes of this act.

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13 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section,
14 the program authorized under this section shall terminate
15 on the date gray wolves are removed from the list of
16 experimental nonessential population, endangered species or
17 threatened species in Wyoming. The department of
18 agriculture shall report the termination of the program
19 pursuant to this subsection to the joint agriculture,
20 public lands and water resources interim committee and the
21 joint travel, recreation, wildlife and cultural resources
22 interim committee no later than fifteen (15) days after the
23 termination of the program.

1

2 **Section 2.** There is appropriated two hundred thousand
3 dollars (\$200,000.00) from the general fund to the
4 department of agriculture. This appropriation shall only
5 be expended for the purpose of administering the program
6 and funding damage payments pursuant to this act.
7 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
8 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
9 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
10 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
11 by law on June 30, 2018.

12

13 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
14 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
15 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
16 Constitution.

17

18

(END)