

ORIGINAL HOUSE  
BILL NO. HB0141

ENROLLED ACT NO. 34, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING  
2024 BUDGET SESSION

AN ACT relating to state lands; specifying evaluation and review requirements before issuance of oil and gas leases on state lands; requiring rulemaking; specifying applicability; and providing for an effective date.

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

**Section 1.** W.S. 36-6-101 by creating a new subsection (p) is amended to read:

**36-6-101. Terms of leases; extensions; lessees specified; rules and regulations; rent and royalties; assignment of leases; grazing and agricultural leases; cooperation with United States or its lessees, in cooperative or unit plans.**

(p) Before issuing a lease of any state lands or state school lands for oil and gas production under this article, the director, subject to criteria established by the board, shall review the highest bid offered by an applicant to determine if the applicant is a qualified oil and gas lease applicant in accordance with rules of the board. If the highest bidder is not a qualified bidder, then the board shall consider the second highest bidder to determine whether that bidder is a qualified applicant, upon which the board may issue the lease if the applicant agrees to lease the lands for the highest amount bid before the disqualified applicant entered the lease auction or process or for the amount that the second highest bidder bid, whichever is lower. Any applicant whose bid is rejected under this subsection because the applicant is not a qualified oil and gas lease applicant shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of the applicant's highest bid. The attorney general may bring an action in a court of

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competent jurisdiction to recover the penalty specified in this subsection from the applicant.

**Section 2.** The board of land commissioners shall promulgate all rules necessary to implement this act, including defining the term "qualified bidder" or "qualified oil and gas applicant" for purposes of bidding on oil and gas production leases on state land.

**Section 3.** Nothing in this act shall be construed to alter, amend or impair any oil or gas lease for state lands or state school lands or lease assignment issued or made before the effective date of this act.

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**Section 4.** 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.

(END)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

TIME APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk