

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0167

Lifesaver program.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Esquibel, K. and  
Senator(s) Johnson

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health; creating a lifesaver  
2 program; specifying program components; authorizing  
3 rulemaking; authorizing grants as specified; providing  
4 appropriations and a continuous appropriation; and  
5 providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-128 is created to read:

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11 **9-2-128. Lifesaver programs; process for grants;**  
12 **administration; account established; rules; grant criteria.**

13

14 (a) The department of health shall administer a  
15 lifesaver program to provide grants to counties for search  
16 and rescue designed to quickly find a person suffering from

1 Down syndrome, brain injuries, autism, Alzheimer's or other  
2 dementia related disorders who wanders and becomes lost and  
3 missing. The program shall operate on a county basis,  
4 under which participants wear transmitters to allow the  
5 county sheriff's departments to electronically locate  
6 participants if necessary.

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8 (b) The department shall establish by rule and  
9 regulation an application procedure and calendar for grants  
10 under this section and adopt other rules as necessary to  
11 implement this section.

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13 (c) Grant applications shall include, but not be  
14 limited to:

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16 (i) An estimate of the number of people who  
17 might qualify for assistance in the county;

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19 (ii) An estimate of the startup cost; and

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21 (iii) A statement of the number of personnel  
22 available for tracking lost persons.

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1           (d) The department shall provide grants, subject to  
2 the following:

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4           (i) Grants to any one (1) county shall not  
5 exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) of state  
6 funds in any calendar year;

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8           (ii) The director shall prioritize the grant  
9 awards in accordance with the respective needs of each  
10 county for tracking services and the availability of local  
11 funding sources, as documented in the applications  
12 submitted.

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14           (e) A grant recipient under this section shall use  
15 the grant monies only to purchase emergency response kits,  
16 which shall include equipment necessary to track and  
17 triangulate searches, as well as transmitters or any other  
18 related equipment, and to provide training necessary for  
19 search personnel.

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21           (f) The lifesaver program account is created. The  
22 account shall consist of those funds appropriated to the  
23 account by the legislature and all monies received from  
24 federal grants and other contributions, grants, gifts,

1 transfers, bequests and donations to the account. The  
2 department of health is specifically empowered to accept  
3 grants, gifts, transfers, bequests and donations to the  
4 account. Funds in the account are continuously appropriated  
5 to the department for the purpose of providing grants under  
6 this section and for purposes of subsection (g) of this  
7 section.

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9 (g) The department of health shall provide outreach  
10 and education among law enforcement and families about the  
11 dangers of wandering and other potentially hazardous  
12 behavior when a wandering incident has occurred. Not more  
13 than ten percent (10%) of funds within the lifesaver  
14 account shall be expended in any fiscal year for purposes  
15 of this subsection.

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17 **Section 2.** There is appropriated two hundred fifty  
18 thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) from the general fund to the  
19 lifesaver program account. This appropriation shall be for  
20 the period beginning with the effective date of this act.  
21 This appropriation shall only be expended for the purpose  
22 of grants to counties pursuant to W.S. 9-2-128.  
23 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
24 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any

1 other purpose. Any unexpended monies in the account shall  
2 not revert but shall remain in the account to be expended  
3 for the purposes specified in this act. This appropriation  
4 shall be included in the department's 2017-2018 standard  
5 biennial budget request.

6

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

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12

(END)