

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0170

Wyoming economic development zones.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Henderson, Duncan, Greear,
Newsome, Sweeney and Zwonitzer and
Senator(s) Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to economic development; requiring the
2 Wyoming business council to designate Wyoming economic
3 development zones and to assist with applications for
4 federal economic development district designation;
5 requiring rulemaking; requiring reporting as specified; and
6 providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-12-115 is created to read:

11

12 **9-12-115. Wyoming economic development zones.**

13

14 (a) The council, in consultation with local economic
15 development organizations, chambers of commerce and other

1 state agencies as deemed appropriate by the council, shall
2 designate not less than five (5) Wyoming economic
3 development zones for the purpose of economic development,
4 developing a trained, competitive workforce and the
5 revitalization of economically distressed areas within
6 Wyoming. In designating Wyoming economic development zones,
7 the council shall consider need indicators pursuant to
8 subsection (b) of this section, success indicators pursuant
9 to subsection (c) of this section and the commitment of
10 local leaders to the development of a comprehensive
11 economic development strategy under 13 C.F.R. 303.7.

12

13 (b) In making a Wyoming economic development zone
14 designation, the council shall consider the following need
15 indicators:

16

17 (i) The extent to which the proposed zone has
18 experienced or is likely to experience a sudden or severe
19 job loss as a result of the closing or downsizing of a
20 business or businesses of economic importance to a local
21 community;

22

1 (ii) The extent to which the median household
2 income within the proposed zone is lower than the state
3 median household income;

4

5 (iii) The amount of property in or near the
6 proposed zone that is underdeveloped or nonperforming;

7

8 (iv) The extent to which property in the
9 proposed zone would remain underdeveloped or nonperforming
10 without a designation.

11

12 (c) In making a Wyoming economic development zone
13 designation, the council shall consider the following
14 success indicators:

15

16 (i) The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and
17 threats related to the viability of economic development
18 within the proposed zone;

19

20 (ii) The local public and private commitment to
21 development of the proposed zone and the potential
22 cooperation of the surrounding communities;

23

1 (iii) The potential for the proposed zone to
2 establish, produce and maintain jobs within the state;

3

4 (iv) The existing resources available to the
5 proposed zone;

6

7 (v) The extent to which any of the following
8 facilities or industries could be feasibly established,
9 maintained or expanded within a proposed zone:

10

11 (A) Carbon capture and sequestration
12 facilities on or near existing coal fired power plants,
13 other power plants or other emission sources;

14

15 (B) Renewable energy production, siting,
16 manufacturing, development and storage;

17

18 (C) Laydown areas to facilitate the
19 construction, maintenance or operating efficiency of
20 existing or new facilities;

21

22 (D) Enhanced oil recovery, including
23 related research and development;

1

2 (E) Oil, gas and coal, including any
3 efficiencies or savings generated by integrating renewable
4 energy sources;

5

6 (F) Infrastructure, transportation,
7 manufacturing, supply chain integrity and logistics;

8

9 (G) Innovation and technology, including
10 broadband deployment and related telecommunications
11 services;

12

13 (H) Mining, including rare earth element
14 and critical mineral extraction;

15

16 (J) Small to medium sized modular nuclear
17 reactors;

18

19 (K) Value added agricultural developments;

20

21 (L) Financial technology and innovation;

22

1 (M) Any other facilities or industries
2 which could be feasibly established, maintained or expanded
3 as determined by the council.

4

5 (d) Prior to making a Wyoming economic development
6 zone designation, the council shall coordinate with
7 affected counties and municipalities to consider and
8 evaluate the need indicators pursuant to subsection (b) of
9 this section, the success indicators pursuant to subsection
10 (c) of this section and any comprehensive economic
11 development strategy established pursuant to 13 C.F.R.
12 303.7 which affects those counties and municipalities.

13

14 (e) The council shall assist and coordinate with the
15 local leaders of any Wyoming economic development zone with
16 a comprehensive economic development strategy established
17 pursuant to 13 C.F.R. 303.7 to apply for designation as an
18 economic development district under 13 C.F.R. 304.1.

19

20 (f) Not later than December 1, 2021 and by every
21 October 15 thereafter, the council shall report to the
22 joint minerals, business and economic development interim
23 committee concerning the Wyoming economic development zones

1 established under subsection (a) of this section. The
2 report shall include:

3

4 (i) Recommendations for legislative or
5 regulatory changes which would support, facilitate or
6 encourage economic development, the development of a
7 trained, competitive workforce and the revitalization of
8 communities within Wyoming economic development zones;

9

10 (ii) Recommendations for legislative or
11 regulatory changes which would streamline or simplify the
12 process by which entities establish, site or otherwise
13 locate industries or facilities within Wyoming economic
14 development zones;

15

16 (iii) The projected economic impact of each
17 recommended legislative or regulatory change if enacted,
18 including the jobs created and the effect on the local
19 community;

20

21 (iv) The status of all Wyoming economic
22 development zones designated by the council, including the

1 realized economic impact of any enacted legislative or
2 regulatory change.

3

4 **Section 2.** Not later than December 1, 2021, the
5 council shall promulgate any rules necessary to administer
6 this act, which shall include the designation of not less
7 than five (5) Wyoming economic development zones.

8

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

13

14

(END)