

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0188

Wolf depredation compensation.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Winter, Banks and Sommers
and Senator(s) Hicks and Steinmetz

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to agriculture; recreating a gray wolf
2 depredation compensation program; imposing additional
3 duties on the department of agriculture; requiring
4 rulemaking; providing for termination of the program as
5 specified; providing an appropriation; and providing for
6 effective dates.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.**

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12 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and
13 for the period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30,
14 2026, the department of agriculture shall administer a
15 program for purposes of mitigating damages to landowners,

1 lessees or their agents whose livestock is damaged by a
2 gray wolf in an area of the state where gray wolves are
3 classified as predatory animals. The landowner, lessee or
4 agent may file a claim for damages and the department of
5 agriculture shall certify that the damage to the livestock
6 was caused by a gray wolf and determine a compensation
7 amount according to department of agriculture rules.

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9 (b) The department of agriculture shall enter into
10 contracts with the Wyoming game and fish department and the
11 animal and plant health inspection service for personnel to
12 assist in administering and investigating claims for
13 damages.

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15 (c) The department of agriculture shall promulgate
16 necessary rules to carry out the purposes of this act.

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18 (d) As used in this act:

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20 (i) "Damage" means any injury or loss to
21 livestock inflicted by a gray wolf in an area of the state
22 where gray wolves are classified as predatory animals;

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1 (ii) "Livestock" means as defined in W.S.
2 23-1-102(a)(xvi).

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4 **Section 2.** Not later than July 1, 2023 the department
5 of agriculture shall promulgate rules necessary to
6 implement this act.

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8 **Section 3.** There is appropriated one hundred thirty-
9 five thousand dollars (\$135,000.00) from the general fund
10 to the department of agriculture for purposes of
11 administering the program and funding damage compensation
12 payments pursuant to this act. This appropriation shall be
13 for the period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30,
14 2026. This appropriation shall not be transferred or
15 expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,
16 unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall
17 revert as provided by law on June 30, 2026. It is the
18 intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be
19 included in the department of agriculture's standard budget
20 for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

21

1 **Section 4.**

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3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
4 section, this act is effective immediately upon completion
5 of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided
6 by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

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8 (b) Sections 1 and 3 of this act are effective
9 July 1, 2023.

10

11

(END)