

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.**

11

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;

23

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

3

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 three hundred
9 thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) from the general fund to the
10 department of agriculture for purposes of administering the
11 program and funding damage compensation payments pursuant
12 to this act. This appropriation shall be for the period
13 beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026. This
14 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
15 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
16 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
17 by law on June 30, 2026. It is the intent of the
18 legislature that this appropriation not be included in the
19 department of agriculture's standard budget for the
20 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.

7

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

10

11

(END)