

ENROLLED ACT NO. 65, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2023 GENERAL SESSION

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

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

Section 1.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and for the period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2028, the department of agriculture shall administer a program for purposes of mitigating damages to landowners, lessees or their agents whose livestock is damaged by a gray wolf in an area of the state where gray wolves are classified as predatory animals. The landowner, lessee or agent may file a claim for damages and the department of agriculture shall certify that the damage to the livestock was caused by a gray wolf and determine a compensation amount according to department of agriculture rules.

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

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

(d) As used in this act:

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

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

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

Section 3. There is appropriated three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) from the general fund to the department of agriculture for purposes of administering the program and funding damage compensation payments pursuant to this act. This appropriation shall be for the period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2028. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2028. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the department of agriculture's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

ORIGINAL HOUSE
BILL NO. HB0188

ENGROSSED

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Section 4.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, 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.

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

(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