

SENATE FILE NO. SF0004

Wildlife conservation account.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military  
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to wildlife conservation; authorizing  
2 acceptance and solicitation of donations for wildlife  
3 conservation efforts related to the transportation system;  
4 and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-2-231(a) and (b) is amended to read:

9

10 **31-2-231. Wildlife conservation license plates;**  
11 **wildlife conservation account; authority to receive and**  
12 **expend monies.**

13

14 (a) Any person required to register a vehicle in  
15 Wyoming pursuant to this article may apply to the department

1 for a statement of eligibility for wildlife conservation  
2 license plates for any motor vehicle that is not a commercial  
3 vehicle or multipurpose vehicle owned or leased by that person  
4 upon registration of the vehicle. The department may include  
5 as part of the application the option for the applicant to  
6 donate an additional amount in support of wildlife  
7 conservation efforts related to the transportation system.  
8 Upon payment by the applicant of a fee of one hundred fifty  
9 dollars (\$150.00) to the department, plus any additional  
10 voluntary amount, the department shall issue a written  
11 statement of eligibility for wildlife conservation license  
12 plates. The department shall assess an annual fee of fifty  
13 dollars (\$50.00) for a person to retain eligibility for  
14 wildlife conservation plates, but this annual fee shall not  
15 be charged in the year the person pays the one hundred fifty  
16 dollars (\$150.00) eligibility fee. The person may submit an  
17 additional voluntary amount in support of wildlife  
18 conservation efforts related to the transportation system  
19 when remitting the annual fee.

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21 (b) The fees collected under subsection (a) of this  
22 section shall be payable to the department and shall be  
23 accounted for separately. The fees collected shall be

1 distributed to the wildlife conservation account within the  
2 state highway fund, which is hereby created. The wildlife  
3 conservation account shall be administered in accordance with  
4 the following:

5  
6 (i) Funds in the wildlife conservation account are  
7 continuously appropriated to the department and shall only be  
8 used to provide for wildlife conservation efforts related to  
9 the transportation system, including signage, wildlife  
10 corridors, wildlife crossings and game fences. The  
11 department, after consultation with the commission, may  
12 expend money received and the proceeds or other property  
13 likewise received and disposed of by the department for the  
14 purposes of this section;

15  
16 (ii) The department may establish methods to  
17 accept voluntary contributions in support of wildlife  
18 conservation efforts related to the transportation system for  
19 deposit into the wildlife conservation account. The  
20 department may suggest and solicit specific contribution  
21 amounts;

22

1           (iii) The department, in consultation with the  
2 commission, shall have the authority to receive and credit to  
3 the wildlife conservation account, any money or property of  
4 any kind or character, donated, granted or bequeathed to the  
5 commission, the department or the state of Wyoming for  
6 wildlife conservation efforts related to the transportation  
7 system and to carry out the terms, if any, of the grant,  
8 donation or bequest, or in the absence of any terms or  
9 limitations, to expend the money or the proceeds of the  
10 property as it may deem advisable for wildlife conservation  
11 efforts related to the transportation system under the  
12 provisions of this section;

13  
14           (iv) The state treasurer is hereby authorized and  
15 directed to receive and credit to the wildlife conservation  
16 account any grant, donation or bequest that is made to the  
17 commission, the department or the state of Wyoming for  
18 wildlife conservation efforts related to the transportation  
19 system that contains a condition or restriction that the  
20 income only therefrom shall be expended for the purposes  
21 provided by this section. The state treasurer shall invest  
22 any money received under this paragraph in accordance with

1 law and the interest received thereon shall be deposited into  
2 the wildlife conservation account.

3

4 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2020.

5

6 (END)