

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ***BILL REVIEW AND STATUS***

MONDAY JANUARY 30, 2023

NOTE: THE GENERAL SESSION CONVENED ON JANUARY 10TH. JANUARY 26TH WAS THE LAST DAY FOR SENATE BILL INTRODUCTIONS. JANUARY 31ST IS THE LAST DAY FOR HOUSE BILL INTRODUCTIONS. UPDATED BILL STATUS INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON THE WWGA WEBSITE EACH WEEK. For more information, call the WWGA office at 307-265-5250.

HOUSE BILLS

HB 01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS—[Details will be provided when available.]

HB 03 STATE ASSESSMENT OF INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS—assures uniformity by providing for state assessment of independent power producer property in lieu of individual county assessment.

Status: Passed House

WWGA Position: Support

HB 16 STATE LAND LEASING—IMPROVEMENTS—Increases from \$2,000 to \$4000 per section for each improvement on state leased land without prior authorization; changes toe valuation of improvements for reimbursement by a new lessee from “contributory value” to “depreciated value”.

Status: Passed House

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

HB 17 STATE LANDS—GRAZING OF NON-OWNED LIVESTOCK—Provides that prior approval and the sharing of “excess rentals” is not applicable to the grazing of non-owned livestock so long as the lessee retains full management and responsibility for the livestock.

Status: Passed House

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

HB 20 LAND EXCHANGES—PRIORITY—Provides for notice to current lessees, owners of adjoining lands, county commissioners and legislators from the affected county prior to completing a land exchange; prioritized exchanges that are within the same county, increase public access, consolidates state ownership, or has express support from any of the above listed entities.

Status: Passed House

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

HB 21 STATE LANDS—USE OF LAND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS—Clarifies existing language to provide that any applicant to lease state lands for grazing and agricultural purposes must have actual and necessary use for the land.

Status: Passed House

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

HB 22 STATE LAND LEASE DEFICIENCIES—CURE PROCESS—Requires that all applications to lease state lands are to be filed 60 days before expiration of the existing lease; requires a 2nd notice for failure to file or deficiencies in the filing not less than 40 days prior to expiration and offer the lessee not less than 30 days from receipt to file or correct the deficiency; requires payment of annual rentals forty days before the anniversary date; provides for an additional certified notice if the rental is not paid by the anniversary date and allows for an additional thirty days from the date of the notice to make payment together with a 10% late fee.

Status: Passed House 2nd Reading

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

HB 41 LIGHWEIGHT TRAILERS—PERMANENT REGISTRATION—Authorizes permanent registration of house trailers, semitrailers and utility trailers that are at least six years old upon payment of an administrative fee of \$50 plus an amount equal to five times the normally applicable fees.

Status: Passed House

WWGA Position: Support

HB 42 OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLE OPERATION—Prohibits the operation of off-road recreational vehicles within the right of way of interstate highways with exceptions..

Status: Passed House

WWGA Position: Monitor

- HB 54 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**—Provides the ability of a homeowner to apply for a property tax exemption of the first \$110,00 of fair market value of property, which may include up to one acre of land, used as a primary residence.
Status: Introduced WWGA Wosition: Monitor
- HB 60 COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY**—Establishes a Colorado River authority within the State Engineer’s Office composed of nine members with representation from the Upper Green, Lower Green and Snake River Basins to protect, conserve, use and develop Wyoming’s Colorado River waters; specifies the method of selection and duties of the River Commissioner.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Support
- HB 63 VACANCIES IN ELECTED OFFICE**—Provides for the filling of vacancies in congressional or state-wide offices by a special election if more than half of the term remains at the time of the vacancy.
Status: Failed WWGA Position: Monitor
- HB 72 SALES TAX REVISIONS**—Makes the sales tax applicable to the majority of services including agricultural services with an exception for veterinary services for farm or ranch livestock; reduces the excise tax from 3% to 2 1/2%; repeals the sales tax exemption for food but authorizes counties to exempt sales of food from the county tax by a vote of the people; removes the current sales tax exemption for livestock and feeds as well as for farm equipment.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Strongly Oppose
- HB 73 ANNEXATION-VOTE REQUIREMENT**—Requires written approval from 2/3rds of all landowners owning a majority of the land in an area before annexation into a municipality.
Status: Passed House WWGA Position: Support
- HB 75 PAINTED FENCE POSTS—NO TRESSPASSING**—Makes the marking of fence posts or other structures with florescent orange or pink paint at any normal point of access as “notice” for purposes of criminal trespass citation; directs Game & Fish and State Parks of provisions concerning trespassing.
Status: Failed WWGA Position: Support
- HB 83 TRIBAL AGREEMENTS TO HUNT AND FISH**—Authorizes the Governor to enter into agreement with tribes concerning hunting, fishing, trapping or gathering right claims based on treaty or other federal rights to assure consistency with state regulations and enforcement.
Status: Passed House 2nd Reading WWGA Position: Support
- HB 88 FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND-PROHIBITED**—Prohibits any foreign government, business or entity from purchasing agricultural land in Wyoming after July 1, 2023; requires registration of all lands owned prior to this date.
Status: Passed House Agriculture Committee WWGA Position: Monitor
- HB 93 OMNIBUS WATER BILL-CONSTRUCTION**—General authorization and funding allocation for diverse water projects including cloud seeding; increase appropriations for previously approved construction projects.
Status: Passed House WWGA Position: Support
- HB 95 WORKING ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT**—Prohibits any county, city or town from enacting any resolution, ordinance or policy that unduly restricts a person from using a working animal in lawful commerce including ranching.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Support
- HB 98 PROPERTY TAX-HOMEOWNERS EXEMPTION**—Exempts up to \$50,000 of the fair market value of a primary residence from property taxation.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Monitor
- HB 104 HUNTING OF PREDATORY ANIMALS –AMENDMENTS**—Allows the use of artificial lighting for the hunting of predatory animals.
Status: Passed House WWGA Position: Support
- HB 106 EMINENT DOMAIN-WIND ENERGY COLLECTOR SYSTEMS**—Reinstates a previous moratorium on the use of eminent domain to condemn a right of way across private land for wind energy collector systems until 2032.
Status: Passed House WWGA Position: Support

HB 114 LEASING AND SALE OF STATE LANDS-AMENDMENTS—Incorporates provisions of HB 16; adds “residential” as a leasing purpose; removes requirement for lease compliance with local land use planning and zoning; establishes a process for the valuation of commercial or residential improvements upon sale of the state land.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Oppose/Amend

HB 116 PROHIBITING FOREIGN PROPERTY OWNERSHIP IN WYOMING—Prohibits any new ownership of land or minerals in Wyoming by a foreign interest from Russia, China or any country designated as a state sponsor of terrorism under federal law; grants an exception for a residence on one acre or less.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

HB 123 COLLECTION OF ANTLER OR HORNS BY RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS—Provides that shed antlers or horns found on public lands are the property of the state; empowers the G&F to establish seasons for their collection; requires that the season begin for residents three days before nonresidents.

Status: Passed House TRW Committee

WWGA Position: Monitor

HB 126 TRESPASS-REMOVAL OF TRESPASSER—Authorizes a landowner or their agent to use reasonable and appropriate physical force to remove a criminal trespasser from their land or premises.

Status: Passed House Judiciary Committee

WWGA Position: Support

HB 131 STATE LOAN AND INVESTMENT BOARD-TASK FORCE AND STUDY—Establishes a task force of legislators and gubernatorial appointees to review the duties and powers of the Boards and the Office of State Lands and Investments and develop any legislative changes deemed necessary.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Oppose

HB 142 NOTICE OF ANNEXATION—Requires notice to landowners prior to annexation of land into a city or town.

Status: Passed House

WWGA Position: Support

HB 147 UNLAWFUL TRESPASS SIGNAGE-TAKING OF WILDLIFE—Forbids the posting of signs that restrict access to state or federal lands for taking of wildlife where access is available.

Status: Passed House TRW Committee

WWGA Position: Monitor

HB 168 INNOVATIONS IN WYOMING AGRICULTURE—Allows custom exempt meat processors to offer products for retail sale.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Support

HB 171 NOTICE OF STATE LAND LEASES AND LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES—Requires specified public notice 30 days before the leasing of trust lands for grazing and agricultural purposes; allows county residents who are lessees or occupants of adjoining lands the opportunity to match the high bid.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Amend/Support

HB 178 STATE LAND PARCELS-EVENT HOSTING—Authorizes State Parks and the Office of State Lands to utilize parcels of state lands in Teton County to host revenue raising events.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Monitor

HB 180 BRUCELLOSIS TESTING-NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS—Requires the Wyoming Livestock Board to establish a communication protocol for providing information related to brucellosis testing to livestock producers, veterinarians and brand inspectors.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Support

HB 200 NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES-APPLICATION FEES—Significantly increases application fees for all big game species.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Monitor

HB 217 TROPHY GAME ANIMAL-CHANGE TO LARGE CARNIVORE GAME ANIMAL — Changes all references to “trophy game animal” in current statutes to “large carnivore game animal”.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Monitor

HB 222 COLORADO RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE—Creates an advisory committee on Colorado River water management including representatives from agriculture, industrial users, and municipalities.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Support

- HB 228 LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION FACTOR**—Directs the G&F to adopt a compensation factor of 3.5 for yearling cattle damaged by a trophy game animal unless research supports an alternative formula.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Support
- HB 236 TAX EXEMPTION-AGRICULTURAL REPAIR AND PARTS**—Provides a sales tax exemption for the servicing and parts for farm implements.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Support
- HB 257 MINE PERMIT AND RECLAMATION PLAN CHANGES-LANDOWNER APPROVAL**—Requires the written consent of the surface owner before DEQ approves any changes in a permit or reclamation plan.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Support
- HB 267 CONVEYANCES TO UNITED STATES-RIGHT OF REFUSAL BY STATE**—Grants the state the right of first refusal on any sale, grant or award of land, minerals or water rights to the United States.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Support
- HB 271 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE ENDOWMENT**—Establishes a permanent UW College of Agriculture Endowment fund with earnings to support academics, research and extension; appropriates \$50 million.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Strongly Support
- HB 273 GAME AND FISH TRESPASS-INTENT**—Amends the Game & Fish trespass law to require that the trespasser must knowingly enter the private land.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Strongly Oppose
- HB 276 SHED ANTLERS AND HORNS PERMIT**—Requires a permit for the collection of shed antlers and horns on public lands; no fee for residents; \$20 fee for non-residents.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Monitor
- HB 278 PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENTS MAPPING**—Directs G&F, State Lands and State Parks to update geographic information system maps to show state held easements and rights of way for public access.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Monitor
- HB 285 LANDOWNER HUNTING COUPONS—HUNTS THAT HARVEST NO ANIMALS**—Requires hunters to deliver landowner coupons to a landowner on whose land the majority of a hunt occurred irrespective of whether an animal was actually harvested.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Support
- HJ 01 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAXATION AMENDMENT**—If approved by voters, would establish a separate property class for residential property and authorize the legislature to establish a maximum annual valuation increase.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Monitor
- HJ 02 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CLASS**—If approved by voters, would establish a separate property class for residential property and authorizes the legislature to create subclasses of such property.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Monitor
- HJ 03 WILD HORSES AND BURROS-BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**—Calls upon congress to authorize management practices including equine slaughter and processing, and to strengthen the partnership with the states in horse and burro management.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Strongly Support
- HJ 11 ANIMAL DRUG AVAILABILITY-WYOMING AGRICULTURE**—Calls on Congress to make necessary policy changes to allow agricultural producers direct access to livestock antibiotics.
Status: Received for Introduction WWGA Position: Monitor

SENATE FILES

SF 01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS—Mirror Bill to HB 01.

SF 27 WEED AND PEST MITIGATION-TRIBAL INCLUSION—Authorizes the Eastern Shoshone, Northern Arapaho or a cooperative body of these tribes to participate in the state’s emergency insect management programs.
Status: Introduced WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 28 LIVESTOCK INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL-TRIBAL INCLUSION—Enables the state veterinarian to provide contagious and infectious reportable disease testing, containment and reimbursement services on the Wind River Reservation; authorizes the Governor to enter into negotiations with any tribe in the region to ensure that brucellosis is not passed from wildlife to livestock.
Status: Passed Senate WWGA Position: Support

SF 29 BRUCELLOSIS MANAGEMENT UPDATES—Removes the mandatory requirement for branding of confirmed brucellosis infected animals; reidentifies “areas of concern” as “temporary surveillance” areas; authorizes the WLB to specify the required documentation for reimbursement.
Status: Passed Senate WWGA Position: Strongly Support

SF 30 APICULTURE-AGRICULTURAL LAND USE PURPOSE—Defines apiculture (bee keeping) as an agricultural purpose for land valuation purposes.
Status: Failed WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 31 ADJACENT LAND RESOURCE DATA –TRESPASS REPEAL—Removes that portion of statute related to civil actions for trespassing across private land to collect resource data on other lands which was found to be invalid by the Court.
Status: Passed Senate WWGA Position: Support

SF 33 DEFINING AIRCRAFT FOR PURPOSES OF HUNTING PROHIBITIONS—Defines “aircraft” for the purposes of the hunting prohibition as “any machine or device capable of atmospheric flight” including unmanned vehicles.
Status: Passed Senate WWGA Position: Strongly Support

SF 34 TRESPASS BY SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT—Defines trespass to include causing a drone or similar aircraft to enter into the immediate reaches of the airspace over private property if the entry “substantially interferes with the landowner’s or his authorized occupant’s use and enjoyment of the land”.
Status: Passed Senate WWGA Position: Amend/Support

SF 56 PROHIBITING TRAVEL ACROSS PRIVATE LANDS FOR HUNTING PURPOSES—Amends the current prohibition under the Game & Fish statutes to include travel through or return across private property; defines such travel to require physically touching or driving on the surface of the private property.
Status: Passed Senate WWGA Position: Support

SF 60 NON-ESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE APPLICATION FEES—Increases priority non-resident hunting application fees for elk, deer and antelope from 118% to 220%.
Status: Failed WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 68 PRESCRIPTIVE EASEMENT FOR WATER CONVEYANCES—Provides for establishment of a prescriptive easement for a water conveyance that has been used and maintained for a period of at least ten years in a continuous open and notorious manner.
Status: Passed Senate WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 71 STATE LOAN AND BOND PROGRAMS—Would tie the interest rate on farm loans to the yield on a U.S. Treasury Security of the same duration with the Board being able to add an additional risk premium of up to 2%; would remove the current lower interest rate for beginning agricultural producers; would reduce the authorized amount available for farm loans from \$275 million to \$50 million.
Status: Passed Senate WWGA Position: Strongly Oppose

SF 73 LAWFUL FENCES—Increases the fine for damage to livestock from an unlawful fence from not less than \$5 to \$150, and from not more than \$25 to \$750; As amended, provides that the adjoining landowner to a subdivision fence is not required to pay any of the cost of construction or maintenance of a subdivision fence..

Status: Failed Senate

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

SF 74 SLOW MOVING VEHICLES-AMENDMENTS—Requires a speed identification symbol showing the maximum speed at which the equipment is designed to operate on any farm tractor or self-propelled farm equipment manufactured after July 1,2023 that is designed to operate in excess of 25 miles per hour as well as on any towed equipment when operating on a street or highway; prohibits travel at a speed in excess of the lowest displayed speed.

Status: Passed Senate

WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 87 NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING-LARGE PROJECT THRESHOLD INCREASE—Increases the threshold for prior legislative approval of large projects from \$200,000 to \$400,000.

Status: Passed Senate

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

SF 96 OMNIBUS WATER BILL-PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION—Authorizes and allocates funding for numerous reconnaissance and feasibility studies for both new and rehabilitation projects.

Status: Passed Senate

WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 102 FOOD FREEDOM ACT AMENDMENTS—Authorizes a producer to employ a third -party “designated agent” to sell products; includes eggs and dairy products under the Act.

Status: Passed Senate

WWGA Position: Support

SF 105 UTILITIES-POINT OF CONSUMPTION AND ALLOCATION AGREEMENTS— Creates a civil action against a utility for providing power outside of a certified service area without a consumer allocation agreement.

Status: Failed

WWGA Position: Support

SF 106 2023 LARGE PROJECTS FUNDING—Authorizes funding of specific projects exceeding \$200,000 from the WWRNT including wildlife and fishery habitats, rangelands, removal of wild horses and conservation easements.

Status: Passed Senate

WWGA Position: Support

SF 107 ACQUISITION, EXCHANGE AND SALE OF STATE TRUST LANDS—Authorizes loans under the Farm Loan Program for the purchase of isolated parcels of state trust land of 80 acres or less.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Amend/Support

SF 110 PERSONAL PROPERTY-TAX EXEMPTION—Exempts all tangible personal property for property taxation.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 125 PROPERTY TAX-LIMITING THE MAXIMUM TAXABLE VALUE INCREASE—Limits the annual increase in property taxable value for property taxed based on market value to 5 percent.

Status: Passed Senate Revenue

WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 128 TRANSFER OF STATE LANDS-EXCHANGE—Removes the current requirement that any exchange of lands with the federal government must be of equal acreage.

Status: Passed Senate 2nd Reading

WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 134 RIGHT TO FARM—REAL ESTATE DISCLOSURES—Requires a seller of vacant or subdivided land to provide a formal “Notice of Right to Farm” if there are any farm or ranch operations within one mile of the property.

Status: Passed Senate 2nd Reading

WWGA Position: Support

SF 136 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF-ASSESSMENT RATE ADJUSTMENT—Reduces the assessment rate from 9.5% to 7.5%.

Status: Passed Senate 2nd Reading

WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 137 SUBDIVISIONS-FENCING REQUIREMENTS—Any subdivider in an area where livestock can legally run at large would be required to construct a perimeter fence and be responsible for all costs.

Status: Passed Senate

WWGA Position: Strongly Support

SF 156 OIL AND GAS FORCED POOLING-GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS—Requires an applicant for a drilling unit to negotiate in good faith with each mineral interest owner who is not subject to a lease.

Status: Laid Back

WWGA Position: Support

SF 157 WEED AND PEST MITIGATION-TRIBAL INCLUSION—Clarifies that the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe may apply to participate in the emergency insect management program.

Status: Introduced

WWGA Position: Support

SF 170 SPECIFYING ADDITIONAL BENEFICIAL USES OF WATER—Would add “storing water for drought contingency or interstate water compact compliance” as a beneficial use of water.

Status: Withdrawn

WWGA Position: Monitor

SF 178 MOUNTAIN LION PURSUIT SEASONS—Directs the G&F Commission to establish seasons for the pursuit of mountain lions with dogs without the authority to kill or capture.

Status: Passed Senate 2nd Reading

WWGA Position: Monitor/Amend

SF 180 CORNER CROSSING-TRESPASS EXCEPTION—Legalizes corner crossing through the air or while touching the private land.

Status: Received for Introduction

WWGA Position: Strongly Oppose

SJ 01 AMENDING WYOMING’S ACT OF ADMISSION FOR LEASES AND EARNINGS—Calls upon Congress to amend Wyoming’s Act of Admission as regards school trust lands to change references to “interest” and “income” to “earnings; to remove restrictions on leasing including the 10 year limit on grazing and agricultural leases.

Status: Passed Senate

WWGA Position: Monitor

- ◆ To access all legislation, to view the legislative sessions or to participate virtually in committee meetings go to [State of Wyoming Legislature \(wyoleg.gov\)](http://State of Wyoming Legislature (wyoleg.gov)) .

