

2022 Wyoming Legislature
League of Women Voters of Wyoming
Bill Summary #5 as of 3-14-22
(Bills that died in the final week are in red text.)
HEA is House Enrolled Act. SEA is Senate Enrolled Act.

ELECTIONS/GOVERNANCE

HB49 – Election reporting requirements Joint Corporations

This greatly expands the kind of activity that requires a financial report. It would include organizations that receives contributions or spends more than \$1,000 to financing an electioneering communication, even if it purports to be an “independent” expenditure. It would include organizations that support or oppose a ballot issue. The meat of the bill is in the definitions. *Approved and signed by House and Senate presiding officers as HEA 35.*

HB52 Timeline to prepare and process absentee ballots Joint Corporations

Authorizes the preparation and proessing aof absentee ballots before an election. This absolutely essential for county clerks to open absentee ballots and have them ready for counting on election day, to prevent delays in announcing winners and enable counting to be completed to meet canvassing deadlines. *HEA 23.*

HB60 Fiscal training and enforcement of financial reporting laws Management Audit Committee

State grants and loans would be conditioned on financial reporting as required by law. Funds woud be withheld otherwise. It applies to state agencies and boards of every county, city or town. *HEA29.*

HB80 Campaign Reports Joint Corporations

All campaigns and political action committees must file an itemized statement of contributions and expenditures, whether the funds have been spent or not. *HEA 22.*

SF25 District judge positions-authorization Joint Judiciary Committee

Authorizes additional judges in 3rd, 6th and 7th judicial districts. (3rd district is Lincoln, Sweetwater and Uinta counties.) 6th is Campbell, Crook and Weston counties. 7th is Natrona County. *House failed to consider on General File early mid-way through the session.*

SF26 District judge positions – authorization and funding Joint Judiciary Committee

Provides for a fourth state district judge in the 3rd and 7th districts. *SEA 25.*

HB100 – Redistricting of the Legislature Joint Corporations Committee

The Senate reluctantly adopted the House’s scheme for two additional House and one additional Senate seat, albeit with several protest votes and complaints about “growing government.” Find the final Joint Conference Committee Report version (the one adopted) on the LSO Website’s Redistricting Page. *HEA 62.*

SF49 Repeal of specified state boards and commissions Management Audit

Repeals: Palliative Care Advisory Council, Governor’s Food Safety Council, Division of Advisory Committees on Underground Water, Health Benefits plan committee, State Employee Compensation Commission and Wyoming Public Television Council. *SEA 23.*

SF50 Government waste, fraud, abuse and whistleblower protection Rep. Tom James, R-Green River

Department of Audit would define and set up an anonymous reporting system for governmental waste, fraud and abuse. Detailed instructions on handling and consequences of reports and firing of guilty employees. *Never emerged from House Appropriations.*

SF58 Wyoming Council for Women’s Issues-workforce services Joint Appropriations Committee

This would place the council within the Department of Workforce Services. CORRECTION: Previous summary listed as dead for the session, but it is very much alive. *SEA 8.*

EDUCATION

SF103 Education-Limitations on teaching critical race theory Sen. Troy McKeown, R-Gillette

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Bill was amended in Senate Education to prohibit the teaching of hate and division on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color or national origin. ***Failed a vote in House Education. Died there.***

HB30 School finance – increasing cash reserves Joint Education
Raises the amount of reserves a school district may maintain from 15 percent of the total foundation program amount to 30 percent, through FY26. It would prohibit expenditures on capital construction. ***HEA 3.***

SF32 K-3reading assessment and intervention program Joint Education Committee
This would require districts to screen students K-3 three times a year for “dyslexia and other reading difficulties” and report results to parents. Also requires professional development of teachers K-3 on reading. \$300,000 is appropriated for districts. Questionable whether quarterly testing is a good idea. ***SEA 28.***

SF62 Civics Transparency Act Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Sundance
All school districts must publish on their Websites all materials and activities and all policies for selecting those materials and activities. Heavily amended to lessen its impact. Strongly opposed by educators. ***Failed a vote in House Education. Died there.***

REVENUE/FISCAL

SF2 Legislative budget Management Council
\$23 million is appropriated for the Legislature for the next biennium. Senate rejected amendment for electronic voting. House rejected an amendment to finance a digital display with information about floor votes. ***SEA Act 3. .***

HB96 – State officials salary Rep. Bob Nicholas, R-Cheyenne
This would raise annual salaries after the 2022 elections: Governor from \$105,000 to \$140,000 and the other top elected officials from \$92,000 to \$125,000. ***HEA 52.***

SF66 American rescue plan act recovery funds appropriations Joint Appropriations Committee
Comprehensive plan for allocating \$334.5 million in federal funding to judicial and executive branches. Dozens of amendments offered in Senate and House. House 3rd reading amendment #3, to expand access to health insurance, was dropped in the conference committee report, so it is gone from the bill. Gov. Gordon issued 10 line item vetoes. House and Senate overrode 4 of them. ***SEA 20.***

SF67 State Funded capital construction Joint Appropriations Committee
Check bill and fiscal note for details. House added several projects before passing 44-15-1. Senate did not concur, so in conference committee. (See bill digest for a list of the conferees.) Senate added \$28.7 million renovation of UW law school. House rejected an amendment to install a 3-by-5 foot sign at the law school saying the renovation was paid for by the energy industry. ***SEA 19.***

HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT

HB85 Child endangering-controlled substance use while pregnant Rep. Ember Oakley, R-Riverton
Adds to our child endangerment statutes the offense of knowingly consuming meth or a controlled substance (without a prescription) while pregnant. Legislators debated penalties vs. treatment. ***Passed the House and died in the Senate with an 8-17-5 vote in Committee of the Whole.***

HB92 Abortion prohibition-Supreme Court decision Rep. Rachel Rodriguez-Williams, R-Cody
Under this bill, if the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade, all abortions would be prohibited in Wyoming except to protect a woman’s health. House rejected an exception for incest. ***HEA 57.***

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

HJ1 Supreme court justices and district judges retirement Joint Judiciary Committee
Retirement age raised from 70 to 75. Will be on the ballot in November. ***House Enrolled Joint Resolution 1.***

SJ2 Senior Citizen Property Tax Relief Sen. Dan Dockstader
Proposes to amend the Wyoming Constitution to give a tax exemption of 50 percent of the first \$200,000 of the fair market value of a home. Senate amended to better define means testing for the exemption. ***Missed General File deadline in House. Died there.***

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