

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0051

Meat processing programs.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands &  
Water Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the emergency expenses of government;  
2 authorizing a governmental program related to expanding and  
3 enhancing meat processing capabilities; providing for an  
4 appropriation; providing a sunset date for the program;  
5 providing rulemaking authority; and providing for an  
6 effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.**

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12 (a) As used in this section:

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14 (i) "Department" means the Wyoming department of  
15 agriculture;

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(ii) "Eligible business" means a business that:

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(A) Is independently owned and operated;

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(B) Is headquartered in Wyoming or has its principal operations located in Wyoming;

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(C) Has the means, knowledge and capability to plan, construct and maintain a new meat processing facility, upgrade equipment within an existing meat processing facility or has the ability to gain the means, knowledge and capability to plan, construct and maintain a new meat processing facility;

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(D) Is in good standing with the Wyoming secretary of state;

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(E) Is a new or existing business.

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(b) The Wyoming meat processing expansion grant program is hereby created. The Wyoming department of agriculture shall establish and administer this temporary

23

1 program for eligible businesses by providing cost sharing  
2 for eligible businesses to address COVID-19 related  
3 problems by planning, constructing, expanding and  
4 maintaining meat processing facilities, upgrading  
5 technology in meat processing facilities, providing  
6 workforce training and converting custom inspected  
7 facilities to state or federally inspected facilities and  
8 state inspected facilities to federally inspected  
9 facilities. Cost sharing under this section shall:

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11 (i) Not be awarded until an eligible business  
12 submits, and the department approves, an application. The  
13 application shall be developed by the department and shall  
14 require each applicant to provide a business plan and to  
15 certify that the business is an eligible business as  
16 defined by this section and that knowingly making a false  
17 statement to the department on the application is  
18 prohibited and may result in the applicant being required  
19 to repay all costs shared under this section;

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21 (ii) Require each eligible business to provide  
22 appropriate information as requested by the Wyoming  
23 department of agriculture;

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2 (iii) Not exceed one million dollars  
3 (\$1,000,000.00) per eligible business;

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5 (iv) Be made only with funds provided to the  
6 state government of Wyoming under the federal CARES Act or  
7 subsequent federal act for a similar purpose. No other  
8 funds of any kind and from any source shall be expended on  
9 the payment of funds for cost sharing awarded under this  
10 section;

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12 (v) Be made on a first-come first-served basis;

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14 (vi) Require a contribution of fifty percent  
15 (50%) from the applicant;

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17 (vii) Require that funds be spent only on  
18 facilities or improvements located in the state of Wyoming.

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20 (c) The department shall promulgate any emergency and  
21 regular rules necessary to administer the program  
22 authorized by this section.

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1           (d) The attorney general shall review in writing the  
2 legality of the program and any rules established for the  
3 program authorized by this section.

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5           (e) No expenditure of funds shall be made under this  
6 section except in accordance with state and federal laws,  
7 regulations and orders.

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9           (f) The department may utilize program funding to  
10 conduct and contract for random audits of eligible  
11 businesses receiving funds for cost sharing under this  
12 section to ensure awarded funds are expended in compliance  
13 with state and federal law.

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15           (g) There is appropriated to the Wyoming department  
16 of agriculture an amount determined by the legislature from  
17 any federal CARES Act or other similarly purposed funds. If  
18 a COVID-19 relief account or other similarly named account  
19 is created for the deposit of COVID-19 related emergency  
20 response funds, this appropriation shall be made from that  
21 account. The funds appropriated under this section shall  
22 only be expended for cost sharing authorized by this act  
23 and consistent with the terms of the federal gift, stipend

1 or appropriation from which the funds originate. This  
2 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
3 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
4 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
5 by law on June 30, 2022.

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7 (h) The program created by this section shall  
8 terminate on December 30, 2022.

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10 **Section 2.** The department of agriculture is hereby  
11 authorized to request and the Wyoming livestock board is  
12 hereby authorized to provide the Wyoming livestock board's  
13 mailing list of agriculture businesses, producers and  
14 industry participants for use by the department of  
15 agriculture to advertise the availability of funding  
16 pursuant to the program created by section 2 of this act.

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18 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon  
19 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
20 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
21 Constitution.

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23

(END)