

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0097

Wolf depredation compensation.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Winters, Allen, Northrup,  
Petroff and Sommers and Senator(s) Kinskey

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to agriculture; creating a gray wolf  
2 depredation compensation program; imposing additional  
3 duties on the department of agriculture; authorizing  
4 rulemaking; providing for termination of the program as  
5 specified; requiring a report upon termination; providing  
6 an appropriation; and providing for effective dates.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.**

11

12 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and  
13 except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this  
14 section, for the period beginning with the effective date  
15 of this act and ending June 30, 2018, the department of

1 agriculture shall administer a program to compensate  
2 landowners, lessees or their agents whose livestock as  
3 defined in W.S. 23-1-102(a)(xvi) is damaged by a gray wolf  
4 in an area of the state where gray wolves are classified as  
5 a predatory animal.

6

7 (b) The department may employ or contract personnel  
8 to assist in administering and investigating claims for  
9 damages.

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11 (c) The department shall promulgate necessary rules  
12 and regulations to carry out the purposes of this act.

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14 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section,  
15 the program authorized under this section shall terminate  
16 on the date gray wolves are removed from the list of  
17 experimental nonessential population, endangered species or  
18 threatened species in Wyoming. The department of  
19 agriculture shall report the termination of the program  
20 pursuant to this subsection to the joint agriculture,  
21 public lands and water resources interim committee and the  
22 joint travel, recreation, wildlife and cultural resources

1 interim committee no later than fifteen (15) days after the  
2 termination of the program.

3

4       **Section 2.** The department of agriculture shall  
5 promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement  
6 this act by July 1, 2016.

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8       **Section 3.** There is appropriated two hundred thousand  
9 dollars (\$200,000.00) from the general fund to the  
10 department of agriculture. This appropriation shall only  
11 be expended for the purpose of administering the program  
12 and funding damage payments pursuant to this act.  
13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
14 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
15 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
16 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
17 by law on June 30, 2018.

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19       **Section 4.**

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21       (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
22 section, this act is effective July 1, 2016.

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