

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0107

Agriculture commission study.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Zwonitzer, Dn. and Blake

## A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of government;  
2 providing for a study related to options for reorganizing  
3 the department of agriculture; requiring a report;  
4 specifying report requirements; providing an appropriation;  
5 and providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9       **Section 1.**       The legislature finds that it is  
10 appropriate to consider altering the current structure of  
11 the department of agriculture in a way that will empower  
12 the people of Wyoming and increase the efficiency and  
13 effectiveness of the department. The legislature believes  
14 that consolidating the department into a commission  
15 structure, like that of the transportation and game and  
16 fish departments, may promote efficiency and communication

1 while allowing Wyoming's citizens direct involvement and  
2 oversight.

3

4 **Section 2.**

5

6 (a) The governor shall conduct a study to estimate  
7 the costs and propose a plan for reorganizing the  
8 department of agriculture to be operated by an agriculture  
9 commission. The governor shall designate a study oversight  
10 entity, which may be a state agency, more than one (1)  
11 state agency or an ad hoc committee created by the governor  
12 to conduct the study.

13

14 (b) The oversight entity shall have the authority to  
15 contract with experts and consultants as may be useful in  
16 conducting the study and making the cost estimates.

17

18 (c) The study shall be subject to the following:

19

20 (i) The study shall examine the current  
21 structure of the department of agriculture and other  
22 government agencies or quasi-governmental entities which  
23 perform agriculturally related activities in Wyoming;

24

1           (ii) The study shall examine the commission  
2 structure that has been adopted to operate the Wyoming  
3 department of transportation and the Wyoming game and fish  
4 department;

5

6           (iii) The study shall propose a means by which  
7 the department of agriculture could be operated under a  
8 commission structure and consider:

9

10           (A) Membership and election of commission  
11 members;

12

13           (B) The duties and functions of an  
14 agriculture commission;

15

16           (C) The management structure of the  
17 department of agriculture if it were directed by an  
18 agriculture commission;

19

20           (D) The benefits and detriments of  
21 assigning to the commission all agricultural related  
22 activities that are currently being conducted by the  
23 department of agriculture or other governmental or quasi-  
24 governmental entities. This evaluation shall include, but

1 not be limited to, consideration of such concepts as  
2 consolidating the Wyoming livestock board, the board of  
3 agriculture and the agribusiness division of the Wyoming  
4 business council and the concept of assigning each such  
5 entity's duties to an agriculture commission. The  
6 evaluation also shall consider any integration of  
7 management duties or personnel necessary as a result of any  
8 consolidation.

9

10 (iv) The study shall evaluate the Wyoming  
11 livestock board's branding unit and consider whether  
12 removing the unit from the board and allowing it to operate  
13 under a self-supporting entity would reduce the size of  
14 government while providing equivalent service to the people  
15 of Wyoming;

16

17 (v) The study shall evaluate the costs or cost-  
18 savings associated with creating an agriculture commission  
19 and the costs or cost-savings associated with any other  
20 alterations in structure, operation or duties contemplated  
21 within the study. This cost evaluation shall include  
22 identifying both the estimated costs of making the changes  
23 contemplated and estimates of any long-term operating costs  
24 or savings which might result from the changes

1 contemplated. The evaluation shall propose an estimate of  
2 the necessary operating budget for the department of  
3 agriculture under a commission structure;

4

5 (vi) The study shall evaluate any statutory  
6 modifications necessary to affect the changes in structure  
7 or operation contemplated in the study;

8

9 (vii) The study shall consider the integration  
10 of agency rules and regulations necessitated by any changes  
11 contemplated in the study; and

12

13 (viii) The study shall identify any changes to  
14 physical facility needs, employee classifications or number  
15 of employees and technology needs that likely would result  
16 from the changes contemplated in the study.

17

18 (d) The study shall be completed on or before  
19 September 1, 2012, unless the governor requires an earlier  
20 completion date, and be submitted to the joint agriculture,  
21 state and public lands and water resources interim  
22 committee. The oversight entity appointed by the governor  
23 shall present the results of the study to the committee  
24 before the 2013 general session of the legislature.

1

2           **Section 3.** There is appropriated one hundred thousand  
3 dollars (\$100,000.00) from the general fund to the  
4 governor's office. This appropriation shall be for the  
5 period beginning with the effective date of this act and  
6 ending June 30, 2013. This appropriation shall only be  
7 expended for the purpose of conducting the study required  
8 by this act and preparing the report required by this act.  
9 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
10 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
11 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
12 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
13 by law on June 30, 2013. This appropriation shall not be  
14 included in the governor's 2013-2014 standard biennial  
15 budget request.

16

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

21

22

(END)