

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0125

Second veterans' skilled nursing facility.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Eklund, Brown, Henderson,
Niemiec and O'Hearn and Senator(s) Anderson,
Barlow, Boner and Pappas

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to veterans; authorizing planning and
2 design for a skilled nursing facility for veterans;
3 providing appropriations; requiring reports; and providing
4 for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.**

9

10 (a) With assistance from the veterans' commission and
11 the department of health, the state construction department
12 is authorized to conduct level I reconnaissance studies and
13 level II feasibility studies pursuant to W.S. 9-5-108 for a
14 second veterans' skilled nursing facility located in the
15 state not less than seventy-five (75) miles from the

1 existing veterans' skilled nursing facility in Buffalo,
2 Wyoming. This second facility shall be modeled after the
3 existing veterans' skilled nursing facility, following the
4 "green house" model concept for alternative elder care as
5 provided in 2019 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 156, and
6 providing a number of patient beds as directed by a Wyoming
7 veterans' commission and department of health needs
8 assessment under subsection (f) of this section but not
9 exceeding the number of beds authorized by the United
10 States department of veterans' affairs.

11

12 (b) There is appropriated up to three hundred
13 thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) from the general fund to the
14 state construction department for the level I
15 reconnaissance studies and level II feasibility studies
16 authorized in subsection (a) of this section. This
17 appropriation shall be a continuing appropriation available
18 from the effective date of this act until the level I and
19 level II planning and design are completed. Appropriated
20 funds under this subsection shall be expended only on the
21 level I reconnaissance studies and level II feasibility
22 studies specified in subsection (a) of this section and any

1 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining upon completion of
2 the project shall revert to the general fund.

3

4 (c) The veterans' commission and department of health
5 shall provide assistance to the state construction
6 department necessary to assure that the veterans' skilled
7 nursing facility is planned and designed in a manner that
8 considers impacts on available federal funding.

9

10 (d) Any contract required for the level I
11 reconnaissance studies and level II feasibility studies
12 authorized in this section shall be in accordance with W.S.
13 9-2-3204(b).

14

15 (e) The state construction department, in
16 consultation with the veterans' commission and the
17 department of health, shall report on the level I and level
18 II planning and design authorized under this section not
19 later than October 15, 2023 to the state building
20 commission, the joint transportation, highways and military
21 affairs interim committee and the joint appropriations
22 committee.

23

1 (f) During the 2023 interim, the department of health
2 shall conduct a study examining the availability of
3 personnel to staff a second veterans' skilled nursing
4 facility, the availability of skilled nursing facility beds
5 in various locations of the state and the need by veterans
6 for skilled nursing facility beds in various locations of
7 the state. The Wyoming veterans' commission shall assist
8 the department of health to assess veterans' needs and to
9 request authorization from the United States department of
10 veterans' affairs for additional beds if appropriate. Not
11 later than October 15, 2023, the department of health shall
12 present a report on its study to the joint transportation,
13 highways and military affairs interim committee and the
14 joint labor, health and social services interim committee.

15

16 (g) There is appropriated up to fifty thousand
17 dollars (\$50,000.00) from the general fund to the
18 department of health for purposes of the study authorized
19 in subsection (f) of this section. This appropriation shall
20 be for the period beginning with the effective date of this
21 act and ending June 30, 2024. This appropriation shall not
22 be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any

1 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining upon completion of
2 the project shall revert to the general fund.

3

4 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
5 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
6 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
7 Constitution.

8

9

(END)