

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0194

Geothermal resources study.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Winters and Lockhart and
Senator(s) Coe

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to geothermal resources; providing for a
2 study of geothermal resource energy exploitation,
3 development, production and regulation; providing
4 definitions; and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.**

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10 (a) The joint minerals, business and economic
11 development interim committee shall study the use and
12 regulation of geothermal resources, with a focus on the
13 following issues:

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1 (i) The exploration, development and production
2 of geothermal energy;

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4 (ii) Protection of the environment against
5 damage resulting from the exploration, development and
6 production of geothermal energy;

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8 (iii) Preventing waste of geothermal resources
9 in connection with the exploration, development and
10 production of geothermal energy;

11
12 (iv) Protection of the general public against
13 injury or damage resulting from the exploration,
14 development and production of geothermal energy;

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16 (v) The appropriate agency or agencies to
17 regulate the exploration, development and production of
18 geothermal energy;

19
20 (vi) How regulation of geothermal energy should
21 be funded and the process for decommissioning of facilities
22 used in geothermal energy production;

23

1 (vii) Geothermal resource or energy tax
2 policies;

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4 (viii) Avoiding duplication of conflicting
5 requirements and effects on state trust lands;

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7 (ix) Any relevant federal statutes that may
8 preempt or limit state or county authority; and

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10 (x) Other issues relating to geothermal
11 resources the committee determines to be relevant.

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13 (b) The committee shall submit its recommendations,
14 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no
15 later than November 1, 2015 for consideration in the 2016
16 budget session with respect to the issues specified in
17 subsection (a) of this section.

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19 (c) As used in this act:

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21 (i) "Geothermal resources" means natural heat,
22 steam or hot water brought to or near the surface from
23 geothermal formations; and

1

2 (ii) "Geothermal energy" means hot water, heat
3 or electricity generated from the exploitation of
4 geothermal resources.

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

10

11

(END)