

SENATE FILE NO. SF0077

Rural development council.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Peterson and Representative(s) Harvey, Krone and Northrup

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to economic development; establishing the
2 rural development council; providing duties and powers of
3 the council; providing duties for the department of
4 agriculture; authorizing positions; providing an
5 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 11-2-301 through 11-2-303 are created
10 to read:

11

12 ARTICLE 3

12

13 RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

13

14

1 **11-2-301. Rural development council; creation;**
2 **membership.**

3
4 (a) There is created the rural development council.
5 The council shall be within the department of agriculture
6 for budgetary and administrative purposes. The rural
7 development council shall consist of the following members:

8
9 (i) The governor or his designee;

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11 (ii) One (1) or more representatives from state
12 agencies with rural development responsibilities at the
13 request of the council and with the approval of the
14 governor;

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16 (iii) One (1) or more representatives from
17 federal agencies that serve rural interests who agree to
18 serve at the invitation of the council;

19

20 (iv) One (1) member of the state legislature
21 appointed by the management council of the legislature;

22

1 (v) One (1) member representing tribal
2 governments on the Wind River Indian Reservation who agrees
3 to serve at the invitation of the council in consultation
4 with the business councils of the Eastern Shoshone and
5 Northern Arapaho Indian tribes;

6

7 (vi) Two (2) representatives of local
8 governments in Wyoming including cities and counties;

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10 (vii) One (1) representative from for profit
11 business organizations that represent agribusiness or other
12 businesses that have a special emphasis on rural areas of
13 the state;

14

15 (viii) Three (3) rural leaders appointed by the
16 governor representing private business, chambers of
17 commerce or nonprofit organizations that are located in
18 rural areas of the state; and

19

20 (ix) Any other nonvoting members as determined
21 by the council.

22

1 (b) The governor may remove any member appointed by
2 the governor under subsection (a) of this section as
3 provided in W.S. 9-1-202. All other members of the council
4 shall serve at the pleasure of the organization or entity
5 that the member represents.

6

7 (c) Any member of the council that represents the
8 federal government or a tribal government shall be a
9 nonvoting member for the purposes of any matter directly
10 involving the expenditure of state funds.

11

12 (d) Legislative members of the rural development
13 council shall serve a term of two (2) years. Other members
14 of the council shall serve a term of four (4) years.
15 Vacancies on the council shall be filled by appointment of
16 the governor or the organization or entity that the member
17 represents for the unexpired term.

18

19 (e) Members of the rural development council shall
20 not receive any fees, salary or other compensation but
21 shall be entitled to receive the same per diem, expenses
22 and travel allowance as members of the legislature while in
23 actual attendance at meetings of the council and the

1 performance of their duties relative thereto. Members who
2 are government employees or public officials shall be
3 considered on official business of their agency when
4 performing duties as members of the council.

5

6 (f) Each year the rural development council shall
7 elect a chairman and vice-chairman from its members.

8

9 (g) The rural development council shall meet as often
10 as necessary to conduct business, but not less than one (1)
11 time each year. Meetings shall be called by the chairman. A
12 majority of the voting members of the council shall
13 constitute a quorum.

14

15 **11-2-302. Council powers and duties; executive**
16 **director.**

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18 (a) The rural development council shall:

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20 (i) Adopt bylaws for the conduct of its
21 business;

22

1 (ii) Facilitate collaboration among federal,
2 state, local and tribal governments in the planning and
3 implementation of programs and policies that have an impact
4 on the rural areas of the state;

5
6 (iii) Monitor, report and comment on policies
7 and programs that address, or fail to address, the needs of
8 the rural areas of the state; and

9
10 (iv) Develop strategies to reduce or eliminate
11 conflicting or duplicative administrative requirements of
12 federal, state, local and tribal governments that have an
13 impact on rural areas of the state.

14
15 (b) The council may employ an executive director who
16 shall be responsible for the daily operations of the
17 council and assist in the development of policy
18 recommendations for consideration by the council. The
19 executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the
20 council.

21
22 **11-2-303. Duties of the department.**

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1 (a) The department shall provide the council with
2 necessary staff support and resources, including office
3 space if necessary.

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5 (b) The department shall include within its biennial
6 budget request submitted under W.S. 9-2-1013 a request for
7 the amount necessary for operation of the council.

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9 **Section 2.** There is appropriated seven hundred
10 nineteen thousand four hundred thirty-five dollars
11 (\$719,435.00) from the general fund to the department of
12 agriculture. This appropriation shall be for the period
13 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
14 June 30, 2018. This appropriation shall only be expended
15 for the purpose of operations of the rural development
16 council as provided in this act. Notwithstanding any other
17 provision of law, this appropriation shall not be
18 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
19 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
20 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
21 2018. The department of agriculture is authorized two (2)
22 full-time employees and one (1) part-time employee for the
23 purposes of this act.

1

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

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7

(END)