

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0228

Highway and wildlife safety studies and improvements.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Crank, Blake, Burkhart,  
MacGuire and Sommers and Senator(s) Schuler

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to transportation and wildlife; authorizing  
2 and requiring a study of motor vehicle collisions with big  
3 game animals on highways as specified; requiring a study of  
4 big game animals killed or injured along railroads as  
5 specified; authorizing wildlife conservation efforts related  
6 to the transportation system as specified; providing  
7 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.**

12

13 (a) As used in this section:

14

1           (i) "Big game animal" means as defined in W.S.  
2 23-1-101(a)(i);

3

4           (ii) "Motor vehicle" means as defined in W.S.  
5 26-37-102(a)(ix).

6

7           (b) Beginning July 1, 2019, the Wyoming department of  
8 transportation shall study the collisions and accidents  
9 involving motor vehicles and big game animals on highways in  
10 Wyoming that the department of transportation, in  
11 consultation with the Wyoming game and fish department,  
12 determines are on wintering grounds or are migration  
13 corridors for big game animals.

14

15           (c) In completing the study required under subsection  
16 (b) of this section, the department of transportation, in  
17 consultation with the Wyoming game and fish department, shall  
18 compile data regarding:

19

20           (i) The number of motor vehicle accidents and  
21 collisions involving big game animals occurring along the  
22 sections of highways identified in subsection (b) of this  
23 section. Data compiled under this paragraph shall include:

1

2 (A) The location of the accident or  
3 collision;

4

5 (B) Any injuries to persons involved in the  
6 accident or collision;

7

8 (C) Any damage to vehicles and highways  
9 resulting from the accident or collision;

10

11 (D) Any damage or death to big game animals  
12 involved in the accident or collision.

13

14 (ii) Any injured or deceased big game animal found  
15 along the highways identified in subsection (b) of this  
16 section.

17

18 (d) The study required under subsection (b) of this  
19 section shall end on June 30, 2023.

20

21 (e) By July 1 of each year of the study, the department  
22 of transportation, in consultation from the game and fish

1 department, shall use the data compiled in subsection (c) of  
2 this section:

3

4 (i) To prepare maps of accident locations for the  
5 highways identified in subsection (b) of this section;

6

7 (ii) To develop a priority list of locations along  
8 the highways identified in subsection (b) of this section  
9 that are at the highest risk for accidents and collisions  
10 between motor vehicles and big game animals.

11

12 (f) The department of transportation shall use the  
13 priority list required under paragraph (e)(ii) of this  
14 section to develop wildlife conservation projects related to  
15 the highways identified in subsection (b) of this section.  
16 Projects may include signage, wildlife corridors, wildlife  
17 crossings and game fences. No project completed under this  
18 section shall include any unnecessary decoration or aesthetic  
19 feature unless the feature is funded by private monetary or  
20 in-kind donations to the department of transportation.

21

22 (g) Beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022,  
23 the game and fish department, in consultation with the

1 department of transportation, shall document the number of  
2 big game animals killed or injured along the section of  
3 railroad line beginning in Granger, Wyoming that runs roughly  
4 parallel to U.S. Highway 30 and proceeding northwesterly to  
5 the Idaho state line, subject to the following:

6

7 (i) The game and fish department shall document  
8 the date, location, number and species of each big game animal  
9 killed or injured between October 1 and April 15 of each study  
10 year;

11

12 (ii) The game and fish department and the  
13 department of transportation shall review fencing along the  
14 right-of-way of the section of railroad specified in this  
15 subsection to ensure fencing complies with the laws of this  
16 state, provided that there shall be no entry onto private  
17 land without the consent of the landowner;

18

19 (iii) The compilation of data and review of  
20 fencing required under this subsection shall be conducted in  
21 a manner not inconsistent with federal law.

22

1           (h) Not later than October 1 of each year of the studies  
2 authorized in subsections (b) and (g) of this section, the  
3 department of transportation and the game and fish department  
4 shall report their findings to the joint transportation,  
5 highways and military affairs interim committee. The report  
6 shall include a summary of the data required to be compiled  
7 under this section.

8

9           **Section 2.**

10

11           (a) There is appropriated five million dollars  
12 (\$5,000,000.00) from the general fund to the department of  
13 transportation for the period beginning July 1, 2019 and  
14 ending June 30, 2024. Notwithstanding any other provision of  
15 law, funds appropriated under this section shall not be  
16 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any  
17 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this  
18 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,  
19 2024. This appropriation shall only be expended subject to  
20 the following conditions:

21

22           (i) Funds shall only be expended to provide for  
23 wildlife conservation efforts related to the transportation

1 system, including signage, wildlife corridors, wildlife  
2 crossings and game fences;

3

4 (ii) The department of transportation and the game  
5 and fish department shall develop a priority list as required  
6 in section 1(f) of this act;

7

8 (iii) Funds from this appropriation shall only be  
9 expended on identified projects upon receipt of funds as a  
10 percentage of the total contribution from appropriated funds  
11 under this section of at least:

12

13 (A) Five percent (5%) of the total  
14 appropriation authorized in this section by a city, town,  
15 county, political subdivision or any other public or private  
16 entity;

17

18 (B) Twenty percent (20%) of the total project  
19 cost by the game and fish department from any funds under the  
20 department's authority;

21

22 (C) Thirty percent (30%) of the total project  
23 cost by the department of transportation from any funds under

1 the department's authority other than the appropriation in  
2 this section.

3

4 (iv) Projects shall be selected from the priority  
5 list prepared under section 1(f) of this act based on  
6 contributions under section 2(a)(iii)(A) of this act on a  
7 first-come, first-served basis.

8

9 **Section 3.**

10

11 (a) There is appropriated two hundred thousand dollars  
12 (\$200,000.00) from the general fund to the department of  
13 transportation beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30,  
14 2023. This appropriation shall be expended only for  
15 conducting the study required by this act. Notwithstanding  
16 any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this  
17 section shall not be transferred or expended for any other  
18 purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from  
19 this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June  
20 30, 2023.

21

22 (b) There is appropriated two hundred thousand dollars  
23 (\$200,000.00) from the general fund to the game and fish

1 department beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2023.  
2 This appropriation shall be expended only for conducting the  
3 study required by this act. Notwithstanding any other  
4 provision of law, funds appropriated under this section shall  
5 not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any  
6 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this  
7 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,  
8 2023.

9

10 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

11

12

(END)