

SENATE FILE NO. SF0095

Wyoming Colorado River committee.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hicks, Anselmi-Dalton and Baldwin
and Representative(s) Crank, Freeman, Paxton
and Sommers

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to water; creating and providing duties for
2 a Wyoming Colorado River committee; making conforming
3 amendments; requiring a report; providing an appropriation;
4 and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 41-11-207 is created to read:

9

10 **41-11-207. Wyoming Colorado River committee; purpose;**
11 **creation; duties.**

12

13 (a) The Wyoming Colorado River committee is created
14 to consist of eleven (11) members. The committee shall be
15 administratively housed within the state engineer's office

1 which shall provide the committee with staff resources,
2 administrative support and technical expertise. Legal
3 support shall be provided by the attorney general's office.
4 The committee shall meet at least two (2) times per year
5 and additionally as necessary or upon request of the state
6 engineer. Committee membership shall consist of:

7

8 (i) The governor, or his designee;

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10 (ii) The state engineer, or his designee;

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12 (iii) Two (2) legislators, who shall serve
13 ex-officio, representing districts within the Colorado
14 River basin, one (1) appointed by the speaker of the house
15 of representatives and one (1) appointed by the president
16 of the senate; and

17

18 (iv) Seven (7) members appointed by the governor
19 as follows:

20 (A) Two (2) shall be agricultural
21 irrigators holding valid water rights within the Colorado
22 River basin;

23

1 (B) One (1) shall be a member of a special
2 district with primary responsibilities for irrigation
3 within the Colorado River basin;

4

5 (C) One (1) shall be an industry
6 representative representing industries holding valid water
7 rights within the Colorado River basin;

8

9 (D) One (1) shall be a person who recreates
10 or participates in conservation activities within the
11 Colorado River basin;

12

13 (E) One (1) shall be a representative of a
14 municipality or joint powers board that holds a valid water
15 right within the Colorado River basin; and

16

17 (F) One (1) shall be a county commissioner
18 from a county within the Colorado River basin.

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20 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,
21 members appointed by the governor shall serve a term of
22 four (4) years and may be removed by the governor as
23 provided in W.S. 9-1-202. The governor shall designate

1 three (3) of the initially appointed members to serve a
2 term of two (2) years.

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4 (c) The committee shall advise the governor, the
5 state engineer and any commissioner appointed pursuant to
6 W.S. 41-11-201 or designated pursuant to W.S. 41-11-202 to
7 represent the state of Wyoming in negotiations with any
8 other Colorado River basin state on all matters relating to
9 the upper Colorado River basin compact and the Colorado
10 River compact.

11

12 (d) In addition to its advisory role on issues
13 pertaining to the Colorado River basin under this section,
14 the committee shall:

15

16 (i) Through work conducted by the state
17 engineer's office and upper Colorado River basin
18 commissioner, investigate the feasibility of implementing
19 an upper Colorado River basin demand management program in
20 Wyoming based upon temporary, voluntary and compensated
21 reductions in consumptive uses or augmentation of water
22 supplies in the Colorado River basin;

23

1 (ii) Recommend to the governor and the joint
2 agriculture, state and public lands and water resources
3 interim committee any legislation necessary to implement an
4 upper Colorado River basin demand management program in
5 Wyoming; and

6

7 (iii) Submit an annual report to the joint
8 agriculture, state and public lands and water resources
9 interim committee on activities of the committee and any
10 recent developments in the Colorado River basin.

11

12 (e) The committee will provide general supervision of
13 the upper Colorado River basin commissioner on all
14 investigations related to the development of a demand
15 management program in Wyoming and in the upper Colorado
16 River basin. The upper Colorado River basin commissioner
17 shall not recommend a Wyoming demand management program to
18 the upper Colorado River commission, enter into agreements
19 with other states through the upper Colorado River
20 commission pertaining to the creation, conveyance and
21 storage of conserved water through an upper Colorado River
22 basin demand management program or approve of any upper
23 Colorado River basin commission demand management program

1 without prior approval from the Wyoming Colorado River
2 committee.

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4 (f) Subsections (d) and (e) of this section are
5 repealed effective July 1, 2028.

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7 **Section 2.** W.S. 41-11-205 is amended to read:

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9 **41-11-205. Mileage, per diem and compensation for**
10 **Wyoming Colorado River committee members, commissioners and**
11 **assistant commissioners.**

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13 Each Wyoming Colorado River committee member and every
14 commissioner and assistant commissioner appointed to
15 represent the state of Wyoming on an interstate compact or
16 in the negotiation thereof shall be paid per diem and
17 compensation in the same amount as provided for members of
18 the Wyoming legislature and mileage at the rate set in W.S.
19 9-3-103 for each mile actually and necessarily traveled in
20 the performance of his duties except state of Wyoming
21 officers and employees shall only be reimbursed for mileage
22 and per diem while away from their regular stations, as in
23 other cases provided. The state engineer is charged with

1 the responsibility for expenditure of such sums as are
2 necessary under this ~~act~~article, except for expenditures
3 necessary for legislative committee members.
4

5 **Section 3.** There is appropriated ten thousand dollars
6 (\$10,000.00) from the general fund to the legislative
7 service office for purposes of providing payments
8 authorized by section 2 of this act to legislative
9 committee members of the Wyoming Colorado River committee.
10 This appropriation shall be for the period beginning with
11 the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2022.
12 This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for
13 any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
14 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
15 by law on June 30, 2022.

16

17 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2020.

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(END)