

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0029

Cold case database and investigations.

Sponsored by: Joint Judiciary Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the attorney general; requiring the
2 division of criminal investigation to develop and maintain
3 a cold case database; requiring law enforcement agencies in
4 the state to provide cold case information to the division
5 as specified; requiring rulemaking; requiring a report;
6 authorizing funds for cold case investigations; providing
7 an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-1-624(a) by creating a new
12 paragraph (vii) and (b) is amended to read:

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14 **9-1-624. Division of criminal investigation; uniform**
15 **procedures and forms for collecting and disseminating**
16 **identification data; missing persons repository; annual**

1 crime statistics report; cold case database; agencies to
2 cooperate.

3

4 (a) The division shall:

5

6 (vii) Develop and maintain a cold case database,
7 subject to the following:

8

9 (A) As used in this section, "cold case"
10 means a homicide or felony sexual offense that remains
11 unsolved for three (3) years or more after being reported
12 to a law enforcement agency;

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14 (B) The division shall adopt rules
15 specifying the information for each cold case that shall be
16 collected from law enforcement agencies in the state and
17 maintained in the database;

18

19 (C) Each law enforcement agency in the
20 state that has a cold case committed or reported on or
21 after January 1, 1972 shall provide to the division the
22 information specified by rule of the division for inclusion
23 in the database.

1

2 (b) All law enforcement agencies within the state
3 shall cooperate with the division in establishing and
4 maintaining an efficient and coordinated system of
5 identification and in reporting missing persons and cold
6 case information to the division.

7

8 **Section 2.**

9

10 (a) The office of the attorney general shall
11 promulgate all rules necessary to implement the provisions
12 of this act.

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14 (b) Not later than October 15, 2024, the office of
15 the attorney general shall report to the joint judiciary
16 interim committee on the status of the cold case database,
17 including the development, operation, maintenance and
18 information collection of the database.

19

20 **Section 3.**

21

22 (a) There is appropriated one hundred fifty thousand
23 dollars (\$150,000.00) from the general fund to the office

1 of the attorney general for the period beginning with the
2 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2026 to be
3 expended only for the purposes as specified in subsection
4 (b) of this section.

5

6 (b) The appropriation under subsection (a) of this
7 section shall be expended in accordance with the following:

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9 (i) This appropriation shall first be expended
10 to develop a cold case database pursuant to section 1 of
11 this act;

12

13 (ii) Upon completion of the development of the
14 cold case database, any unexpended, unobligated funds
15 remaining from this appropriation shall be expended to
16 investigate cold cases, as defined by section 1 of this
17 act.

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19 (c) This appropriation shall not be transferred or
20 expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,
21 unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall
22 revert as provided by law on June 30, 2026. It is the
23 intent of the legislature that the office of the attorney

1 general include the portion of this appropriation that is
2 necessary for maintenance of the cold case database in the
3 office's standard budget request for the immediately
4 succeeding fiscal biennium.

5

6 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2024.

7

8

(END)