

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Title 19-Veterans' Commission duties.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways and Military  
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to military affairs; establishing the  
2 Wyoming national guard museum and specifying its oversight  
3 by the veterans' commission; specifying duties of the  
4 veterans' commission; requiring the promulgation of rules;  
5 authorizing the employment of a veterans' commission  
6 director and staff; renumbering related statutes; and  
7 providing for an effective date.

8

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

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-14-110 is created to read:

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1           **19-14-110.     Description and declaration of Wyoming**  
2 **national guard museum.**

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4           The lands in Laramie county described as follows are  
5 hereby declared to be the Wyoming national guard museum to  
6 be managed by the military department: a parcel of land  
7 beginning at a point 1400.604 feet west and 80 feet north,  
8 of the southeast corner of section 30, township 14 north,  
9 range 66 west, thence north, parallel to the east line of  
10 section 30, on the first course, 266 feet, thence west  
11 parallel to the south line of section 30, on the second  
12 course 313.07 feet, thence south on the third course,  
13 parallel to said east line of section 30, 266 feet, thence  
14 east along the fourth course, parallel to the south line of  
15 section 30, 315 feet to the point of beginning, and also  
16 known as all of block eight (8), Airport Addition to the  
17 City of Cheyenne, Wyoming, as shown by the replat of said  
18 Airport Addition on file and of record in the office of the  
19 county clerk in and for said Laramie county, said replat  
20 being filed on October 1, 1935, as No. 287212.

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22           **Section 2.**     W.S. 19-14-107(c) by creating new  
23 paragraphs (v) through (xii) is amended to read:

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2           19-14-107.           Creation of veterans' commission;

3 **composition; terms.**

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5           (c) The commission shall:

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7                   (iii) Make recommendations to the legislature

8 and to the governor concerning veterans; ~~and~~

9

10                   (iv) Adopt policies and procedures necessary to

11 administer the veteran burial team account pursuant to W.S.

12 19-14-109-~~i~~;

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14                   (v) Prepare, maintain and distribute15 information, by printed material or otherwise, to educate16 Wyoming veterans and their families regarding veterans'17 benefits, healthcare and disability claims and other18 matters relevant to veteran status;

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20                   (vi) Provide oversight and administrative21 services for the operation of any veterans' cemetery22 authorized by W.S. 19-14-108, including but not limited to23 establishing cemetery directors and advisory boards;

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(vii) Provide oversight over any state veterans' memorial museum authorized under W.S. 19-14-111 or national guard museum authorized under W.S. 19-14-110;

(viii) Provide assistance to Wyoming veterans and their families for the filing and processing of veterans' benefits, healthcare benefits and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs disability claims which are related to a veteran's status as a veteran;

**\*\*\*STAFF COMMENT\*\*\***

This language does not mirror the language suggested by the Veterans' Commission. The Commission's draft language would require the Commission to provide State Veterans Service Officers with VA approved training in accordance with applicable federal regulations. At its August meeting, the Committee voted not to directly endorse an effort to have Wyoming's Service Officers officially recognized by the VA. The language suggested by the Veteran's Commission might be interpreted to require the hiring of VA sanctioned and approved veterans Service Officers. LSO believes the more broad language included in this draft will authorize the Commission to continue to perform its current services without requiring actions inconsistent with the Committee's vote.

(ix) Administer all vehicle licensing obligations required of the commission pursuant to Title 31;

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(x) Maintain and administer the veterans' commission expendable trust fund pursuant to rules and procedures which shall be promulgated by the commission;

(xi) To the extent the employment of an executive director would aid in accomplishing the duties required by this section and benefit Wyoming veterans, appoint or retain an executive director for such period, upon such terms and conditions and for such compensation as the commission may deem appropriate. An executive director may hire and supervise such other staff as may be authorized by the commission and shall be administratively supported by the military department;

**\*\*\*STAFF COMMENT\*\*\***

Consistent with the wishes of the Committee, the language used above is relatively generic. Such generic language is used elsewhere in the Wyoming statutes when authorizing commission directors and staff. See e.g. 7-13-423(b)(ii) (Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision), 14-6-102(Interstate Commission for Juveniles). The statutes, however, sometimes use more specific language to place limits on a director's selection, duties or staff funding mechanisms/authority. Below are several examples of language used in other statutes:

*21-15-114(c) (School Facilities Commission) The commission shall select and subject to senate confirmation, employ a director who is a Wyoming*

1 resident and who shall have demonstrated  
2 competency in facilities planning and  
3 construction. The director shall receive an  
4 annual salary determined by the commission and  
5 may be removed from office by the commission or  
6 the governor as provided under W.S. 9-1-202(b).  
7 In addition to other powers granted under this  
8 act, the director may hire necessary staff as  
9 approved by legislative appropriation and shall  
10 provide administrative support to the commission  
11 and carry out this act under the direction of the  
12 commission.

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14 21-18-202(c)(v) (Community College Commission)  
15 Appoint a director who shall perform duties as  
16 prescribed by the commission. The director shall  
17 receive an annual salary as determined by the  
18 commission and approved by the governor. The  
19 director shall hire staff as required to carry  
20 out this act and as approved by the commission.  
21 Subject to legislative budget authorization staff  
22 salaries shall be established by the director  
23 with the approval of the commission;  
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25 (xii) Perform such other and further tasks as  
26 are necessary to carry out the duties imposed by this  
27 section, as are beneficial to Wyoming veterans or as  
28 required by the legislature.

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30 **Section 3.** W.S. 19-7-107 is renumbered as W.S. 19-14-  
31 111.

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33 **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon  
34 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law

1 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
2 Constitution.

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(END)