

# Wyoming Liberty Index

## 62<sup>nd</sup> Wyoming Legislature ★ 2014 Budget Session

### **HB0126, Restoration of rights after felony conviction.**

Sponsors: Representative(s) Zwonitzer, Dn., Barlow, Connolly, Greene, Kroecker, Loucks and Petroff and Senator(s) Case

#### **Comments**

Makes explicit that a felon who has had his rights restored gets back certain rights, including that of obtaining a concealed carry permit. If a person has his rights restored, then he should have all of them restored.

U: This bill has administrative impact that appears to increase duties or responsibilities of one or more state agencies and may impact agency spending or staffing requirements. This bill is an attempt to untangle (not entirely successfully) the language associated with the loss of rights that occurs upon a felony conviction and to address the injustices imposed by society after a judicially imposed debt to society has been paid for commission of that felony. Why bother with imposing any penalty at all after a felony conviction? Rather than imposing a lifelong stigma for being convicted of a felony, why not just say that ANY felony conviction results in automatic incarceration for life? Whether a sentence is imposed as punishment or as restitution for a crime committed, when a judge's sentence is served to its end, then the malefactor should have paid the price of his or her debt to society and should have no further obligations to society over and above those of any other law-abiding citizen. In this age of big data, just having a record ought to be enough of a stigma to overcome in the struggle to become a "normal" productive member of society without having to weigh them down with a few extra anchors.

Weighted Rating: 1.50. Unweighted Rating: 1.00.

#### **Categories**

Individual Rights

For more information on the categories:

<http://wyominglibertyindex.info/2014/methodology.html#thecategories>

#### **Document Status**

Final