

# Wyoming Liberty Index

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

### **HB0167, Lifesaver program.**

Sponsors: Representative(s) Esquibel, K. and Senator(s) Johnson

#### **Comments**

Appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund to fund radio location devices for mentally impaired people and training for search and rescue personnel. The program specifically may accept donations, a definite plus. I expect that radio location on the client base would reduce costs and possibly fatalities. I'd have to know a lot more about the cost-benefit analysis to rate this well, so I'll give it a liberty neutral in spite of the appropriation.

A: This bill contains an appropriation of \$250,000 from the GENERAL FUND to the newly established Lifesaver Program Account within the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH). This bill is a mixed bag. The underlying purpose is interesting and may be worthwhile pursuing. However, the proposed implementation has some flaws. This makes it permissible to use federal money for a purpose that is not among the limited powers allocated to the national government by the Constitution. Governmental centralization is always inimical to Liberty. Ignoring the provisions of the Constitutions of the USA or of the State of Wyoming almost always promotes the centralization of governmental power and damages Liberty. Further, this is a grant program which means that the most populous and richest counties will have the most resources to apply to getting the most money and getting it first. In the worst case, that means that the ten counties which are the most likely to be able to afford the needed equipment out of their own resources are the ones most likely to create the most persuasive proposals and get their grant requests in first. More needy counties are likely to be left in the dust. It would be better if the State of Wyoming purchased 23 separate equipment sets and issued them to each sheriff's department. It is also not clear if the equipment needs of clients are to be funded by the clients themselves, the counties, or the State of Wyoming.

Weighted Rating: -0.50. Unweighted Rating: -0.50.

#### **Categories**

Clarity, Federalism, Individual Rights, Limited Government, Separation of Powers, and Taxation

For more information on the categories:

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

#### **Document Status**

Final