

Wyoming Liberty Index

62nd Wyoming Legislature ★ 2014 Budget Session

HB0172, Impact assistance to local governments.

Sponsors: Representative(s) Throne, Barlow and Teeters and Senator(s) Craft

Comments

Creates a grant program administered by the state lands and investment board (SLIB) to assist local governments in dealing with the impact of oil and gas development. The impact of the Baaken field in North Dakota comes to mind. Note that this is grants, not loans. It is questionable whether the SLIB should exist, but as long as it does, this is a reasonable use of its money.

U: The fiscal or personnel impact is not determinable. This bill creates new statutes that allow the State of Wyoming to grant monies to cities and counties that are impacted by energy development. Most, if not all, grant programs are little more than devices enabling the State to purchase (or bribe, if you want to be totally negative) local responsibilities from local governments. Governmental centralization is always inimical to Liberty. This bill would make sense and obtain a positive rating if this were a LOAN program. After all, energy development usually enlarges the local tax base in the long term. What needs to be addressed is the negative impacts that, in the short term, local government may not have the resources to address.

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

Categories

Free Market, General Government, Limited Government, and Separation of Powers

For more information on the categories:

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

Document Status

Final