

# Wyoming Liberty Index

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

### **SF0116, Expungement of felonies.**

Sponsors: Senator(s) Burns, Case, Driskill, Rothfuss and Schiffer and Representative(s) Berger, Blevins, Coleman, Connolly, Greear, Greene, Throne and Zwonitzer, Dn.

Aye votes: Representatives Baker, Barlow, Berger, Blake, Blevins, Blikre, Brown, Byrd, Campbell, Cannady, Coleman, Connolly, Esquibel, K., Filer, Freeman, Gay, Gingery, Goggles, Greear, Greene, Halverson, Harshman, Harvey, Hunt, Jaggi, Kirkbride, Kroeker, Larsen, Lockhart, Loucks, Lubnau, Mader, Moniz, Nicholas, B., Northrup, Paxton, Petroff, Semlek, Sommers, Stubson, Teeters, Throne, Walters, Watt, Wilson, Winters, Zwonitzer, Dn. and Zwonitzer, Dv. Senators Anderson, JD S02, Anderson, JL S28, Barnard, Bebout, Burns, Case, Christensen, Coe, Cooper, Craft, Dockstader, Driskill, Emerich, Esquibel, F., Geis, Hastert, Hicks, Hines, Johnson, Landen, Meier, Nicholas, P., Nutting, Peterson, Ross, Rothfuss, Schiffer, Scott and Von Flatern

Nay votes: Representatives Burkhart, Davison, Eklund, Hutchings, Kasperik, Krone, Madden, McKim, Miller, Patton, Piiparinen and Reeder Senators Perkins

Signed by the Governor.

### **Comments**

Allows expungement of felonies (related to restoring rights) not previously expungable. A small blow for the theory that when a convict has done his time, that should be an end of it, and if he isn't suitable for human society, he shouldn't be released.

U: The fiscal or personnel impact is not determinable. This bill broadens the types of felonies that may be expunged from a criminal's record. This is Liberty-enhancing because after a person has "paid their debt to society" as levied in a court of law, it is not reasonable that they cannot, ever again be full-fledged citizens. Human beings do make mistakes and they are also capable of learning from their mistakes. Preventing expungement is analogous to spanking a child for raiding the cookie jar and then after they can once again sit down, informing them that they are not allowed to watch TV for the rest of their life.

Weighted Rating: 1.50. Unweighted Rating: 1.00.

### **Categories**

General Government, Individual Rights, and Limited Government

For more information on the categories:

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

### **Document Status**

Final