

HB 50: Restoration of Rights

2008 Budget Session

Sponsor: Rep. Jane Warren (D-H13, Laramie); co-sponsors Reps. George Bagby (D-H15, Rawlins), Bernadine Craft (D-H17, Rock Springs), Floyd Esquibel (D-H44, Cheyenne), Ken Esquibel (D-H41, Cheyenne), Pete Jorgensen (D-H16, Jackson) Mary Throne (D-H11, Cheyenne), Dan Zwonitzer (R-H43, Cheyenne)

HB 50 would have modified the eligibility requirements for restoration of voting rights for persons convicted of felonies. In 2003, the Legislature adopted statutes to allow nonviolent felons to apply for restoration of voting rights, five years after completing all sentences and probation periods.

HB 50 would have allowed all convicted felons the right to apply for restoration of their voting rights after they had completed all sentences and probation periods, as long as the person had never been convicted of an election related felony. The person would have had to wait one year after completing sentences and probation before being eligible to apply, instead of the current five years. After all terms of sentence had been met and probation periods had been completed, the Department of Corrections would have been required to notify the person of his eligibility to apply for restoration of voting rights.

Supporters of HB 50 believed that after a person had served their sentence, they should not continue to be punished with loss of the right to vote. They argued that it was unfair and counterproductive to prevent people from becoming fully integrated back into society after they have served their sentence, and that there was no logic for continuing to withhold voting rights from violent felons.

Opponents generally believed that it was reasonable to permanently punish felons (and especially violent felons) for their crime by withholding the right to vote, even after their sentence has been served.

HB 50 failed the vote for introduction in the House by one vote, 39-21. For a non-budget bill to be considered during a budget session, it must pass the vote for introduction by a two-thirds majority, so in the 60-member House it must receive at least 40 votes in favor.

The vote listed below is the House vote for introduction. A YES vote means the representative wanted to consider modifying eligibility requirements to restore voting rights to convicted felons after they had completed their sentences and probation periods. A NO vote means the representative did not want to consider modifying these eligibility requirements.

Bighorn Basin Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 18	Hank Coe (R)	
H 24	Colin Simpson (R)	Yes
H 50	Pat Childers (R)	No
S 19	Ray Peterson (R)	
H 25	Alan Jones (R)	No
H 26	Elaine Harvey (R)	Yes
S 20	Gerald E. Geis (R)	
H 27	Debbie Hammons (D)	Yes
H 28	Lorraine Quarberg (R)	No

Casper-Area Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 27	Bill Landen (R)	
H 35	Roy Cohee (R)	No
H 36	Mary Hales (R)	Yes
S 28	Kit Jennings (R)	
H 56	Tim Stubson (R)	Yes
H 57	Thomas A. Lockhart (R)	Yes
S 29	Drew A Perkins (R)	
H 37	Steve Harshman (R)	No
H 59	Mary Gilmore (D)	Yes
S 30	Charles K. Scott (R)	
H 38	Bob Brechtel (R)	No
H 58	Lisa Shepperson (R)	Yes

Cheyenne-Area Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 4	Tony Ross (R)	
H 7	Doug Samuelson (R)	Yes
H 41	Ken A Esquibel (D)	Yes
S 5	Robert (Bob) Fecht (R)	
H 8	Lori Millin (D)	Yes
H 42	Pete Illoway (R)	No
S 6	Wayne H. Johnson (R)	
H 9	David Zwonitzer (R)	Yes
H 10	Rodney "Pete" Anderson (R)	No
S 7	Kathryn Sessions (D)	
H 11	Mary Throne (D)	Yes
H 43	Dan Zwonitzer (R)	Yes
S 8	E. Jayne Mockler (D)	
H 12	Amy L Edmonds (R)	No
H 44	Floyd Esquibel (D)	Yes

Gillette-Area Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 23	John Hines (R)	
H 31	Thomas E. Lubnau II (R)	Yes
H 52	Sue Wallis (R)	Yes
S 24	Michael Von Flatern (R)	
H 32	Timonthy Hallinan (R)	Yes
H 53	Erin Mercer (R)	Yes

Lander/Riverton-Area Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 25	Cale Case (R)	
H 33	W. Patrick Goggles (D)	Yes
H 54	Del McOmie (R)	Yes
S 26	Eli Bebout (R)	
H 34	Frank Philp (R)	Yes
H 55	David Miller (R)	Yes

Northeast/East Central WY Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 1	C.L. Townsend (R)	
H 1	Mark Semlek (R)	Yes
H 2	Ross Diercks (D)	Yes
S 2	Jim Anderson (R)	
H 5	Matt Teeters (R)	No
H 6	Dave Edwards (R)	Yes
S 3	Curt Meier (R)	
H 3	Deborah Alden (R)	Yes
H 4	Edward A. Buchanan (R)	No

Sheridan-Area Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 21	Bruce Burns (R)	
H 29	Jerry Iekel (R)	Yes
H 51	Rosie Berger (R)	Yes
S 22	John Schiffer (R)	
H 30	Jack Landon (R)	Yes
H 40	Mike Madden (R)	No

South Central WY Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 9	Mike Massie (D)	
H 13	Jane Warren (D)	Yes
H 45	Kevin A. White (R)	No
S 10	Phil Nicholas (R)	
H 14	Kermit C. Brown (R)	No
H 46	James Slater (R)	No
S 11	Bill Vasey (D)	
H 15	George Bagby (D)	Yes
H 47	William Steward (R)	No

Southwest WY Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 12	Rae Lynn Job (D)	
H 48	Marty Martin (D)	Yes
H 16	Pete Jorgensen (D)	Yes
S 13	John M Hastert (D)	
H 17	Bernadine Craft (D)	Yes
H 60	Bill Thompson (D)	Yes
S 14	Stan Cooper (R)	
H 18	Allen Jaggi (R)	No
H 39	Stan Blake (D)	Yes
S 15	Ken Decaria (D)	
H 19	Owen Petersen (R)	No
H 49	Saundra Meyer (D)	Yes

West Central WY Legislators		HB 50 Intro
S 16	Pat Aullman (R)	
H 20	Kathy Davison (R)	Yes
H 21	Dan Dockstader (R)	No
S 17	Grant Larson (R)	
H 22	Monte Olsen (R)	No
H 23	Keith Gingery (R)	No
See Southwest Region for H 16 and S 12		