



Secretary of State



Bill Format Template for Proposed Bill in an Initiative¹

For the construction of a proposed initiated law, the first and sometimes only section should be identified as section 1. Any additional sections must be identified by Arabic numerals in sequence. The sequence for each section of the proposed initiative should be in the following order:

- Section 1. Contains sections of law being newly created;
- Section 2. Contains provisions of current law which are being amended only;
- Section 3. Amended and renumbered sections of current law;
- Section 4. Repealed and recreated sections of current law;
- Section 5. Renumbered sections of current law;
- Section 6. Repealed sections of current law;
- Section 7. Provisions of law which are being newly created and not intended to be codified in statutes. These noncodified provisions should only be items that are time limited and thus are not needed in codified law. These provisions are still effective as law.

If the proposed initiative does not include one of the categories listed above (for example, if there is no provision being repealed and recreated), that section can be omitted and the next applicable section can be moved into its place by using the omitted section's section number. As a result, the proposed initiative should be sequentially numbered by section with no number omitted or skipped.

Statute sections within an initiative must be identified by the appropriate title, chapter and section number such as: "8-2-405." "8" represents the title (based upon Wyoming's 42 statutory titles which are established by subject matter). "2" is the chapter within title 8. "405" represents two things: "4" is the article within chapter 2. "05" represents the section within article 4. Finally, each section can contain the following parts:

(a) Subsections (divisions of sections) are identified by lower case letters in parentheses as: (a), (b), (c), etc.;

(i) Paragraphs (divisions of subsections) are identified by lower case Roman numerals in parentheses, as: (i), (ii), (iii), etc.;

¹ This template is provided to the Secretary of State's Office from the Wyoming Legislative Service Office pursuant to Wyoming Statute W.S. 22-24-304(d).

(A) Subparagraphs (divisions of paragraphs) are identified by upper case letters in parentheses, as: (A), (B), (C), etc.;

(I) Subdivisions of subparagraphs are identified by upper case Roman numerals in parentheses, and any smaller subdivisions are identified in accordance with the above pattern, again starting with Arabic numerals.

In summary Wyoming Statute 8-1-105(b) requires the following format:

1. Section Number (example: 1-2-301) Each section is then divided as follows:

(a) Subsection

(i) Paragraph

(A) Subparagraph

(I) Subdivision

(1) Subdivision

a. Subdivision

The failure to follow this numbering pattern can lead to unintended laws. For example, if the initiative incorrectly states "except as provided in this paragraph," when the language should read "except as provided in this subsection," the law has a different application.

Uniformity

When an existing statute is being amended, print the statute word for word, comma for comma, etc. Even misspelled words must be included if they are misspelled in the existing law (and the initiative should correct them by strike and underscore).

Effective date

Under Article 3 section 52 of the Wyoming Constitution an initiated law becomes effective ninety (90) days after certification of the election results.