PHTA 2020 Legislative Recap: Wyoming

Throughout the past legislative session in Wyoming, PHTA monitored a few bills that impact the swimming pool and spa industry from the state level. Some of the bills we were monitoring failed due to implications with COVID-19. We have outlined some of the key items we’ve been tracking in Wyoming below:

HB 1004X: (COVID-19 Business Relief) This measure creates the Wyoming Business Interruption Stipend Program, the Coronavirus Business Relief Stipend Program, and the Coronavirus Mitigation Stipend Program. For eligible businesses impacted by COVID-19, the bill provides:

- $50,000,000 in stipends to be used for the Wyoming Business Interruption Stipend Program
- $225,000,000 for the Wyoming Coronavirus Business Relief Stipend Program
- $50,000,000 for the Wyoming Coronavirus Mitigation Stipend Program

On May 20, Governor Mark Gordon signed this measure after using line-item veto authority to make changes and to spread the appropriations made in this measure out over three rounds of funding the state will receive under the Federal CARES Act.

He also removed the minimum amount ($20,000) that a business can receive under the Wyoming Business Interruption Stipend Program to better allow small and micro-businesses to qualify for funding.

HB 128: (Universal Occupational Licensure) FAILED This measure provides that a professional or occupational licensing board shall issue a license to an applicant to allow the applicant to lawfully practice a profession or occupation requiring licensure in this state if the applicant:

(i) Holds a relevant, active occupational or professional license in good standing from another state that mandates substantially equivalent or more stringent educational, training, examination and experience requirements for licensure. Substantial equivalency shall be determined pursuant to rules that shall be adopted by the licensing board from which the applicant seeks licensure;

(ii) Demonstrates competency in the occupation or profession for which the applicant seeks licensure. Competency shall be determined pursuant to rules that shall be adopted for that purpose and may include consideration of continuing education credits, recent work experience, prior licensing examinations, disciplinary actions taken against the applicant in other states and other appropriate factors. Competency shall not be determined by assessment of the applicant’s knowledge or skills through a new examination required by the board;

(iii) Has not engaged in any act that would constitute grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation of the occupational or professional license sought in this state; and

(iv) Completes all required application procedures and pays any required fee.
The measure provides that all relevant work experience of an applicant, including full-time or part-time experience, regardless of whether in a paid or volunteer capacity, may be credited in any work experience requirement adopted by an occupational or professional licensing board.

The measure provides that the above rules apply to all applications for licensure except for the following:

(i) An application to be an attorney at law under chapter 5 of title 33;

(ii) An application to any board which represents a profession with prescriptive drug authority.

The measure extends these rules to military spouses applying for temporary professional or occupational licensing.

On February 11, his measure failed to be officially introduced by a vote of 33-35. This measure is will not receive further consideration.