

SENATE FILE NO. SF0122

Wyoming works program.

Sponsored by: Senate Appropriations Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; establishing the Wyoming works
 2 program at community colleges; providing for grants for
 3 students and funding for community college technical programs
 4 approved to meet labor and economic development needs;
 5 specifying requirements for student grants and for community
 6 college program funding; providing for administration;
 7 requiring reports; reappropriating funds; providing an
 8 appropriation; specifying funding distributions; and
 9 providing for an effective date.

10

11 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

12

13 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-18-401 through 21-18-409 are created
 14 to read:

15

16

ARTICLE 4

1 WYOMING WORKS PROGRAM

2

3 **21-18-401. Wyoming works program created; short title.**

4

5 This article may be cited as the "Wyoming works program".

6

7 **21-18-402. Definitions.**

8

9 (a) As used in this article:

10

11 (i) "Academic term" means the fall semester or
12 term, the spring semester or term, summer school, or other
13 defined period of time within a term or semester in which the
14 approved credential program or course is offered. In this
15 article, "term" and "semester" have the same meaning. If an
16 approved credential program or course encompasses a defined
17 period of less than a full semester or term the beginning of
18 the defined period shall be considered the beginning of the
19 term or semester for that program or course;

20

21 (ii) "College" or "community college" means an
22 institution established under the Wyoming Community College
23 System Code;

1

2 (iii) "Commission" means the Wyoming community
3 college commission;

4

5 (iv) "Consortium" means two (2) or more colleges
6 sharing or jointly delivering credential programs in more
7 than one (1) geographic location, by sharing resources or
8 otherwise collaborating in order to more efficiently provide
9 access to credential programs for students;

10

11 (v) "Cost of attendance" means the sum cost of
12 tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, books and supplies,
13 travel and personal expenses to attend a community college as
14 determined annually by the college in accordance with W.S.
15 21-18-404(b);

16

17 (vi) "Credential" means a license, permit,
18 certificate or other government or industry recognized
19 qualification for working in a trade or occupation in this
20 state, including, but not limited to, drivers of commercial
21 motor vehicles, welders, machine shop operators or other
22 workforce training programs. College academic credit and an
23 applied science degree or certificate may be earned in a

1 credential program, but college academic credit shall not be
2 a requirement for a credential program;

3

4 (vii) "Unmet financial need" means the cost of
5 attendance minus the sum of expected family contribution and
6 all federal, state, local, institutional and privately funded
7 scholarships or grants received by the student, all as
8 determined by the community college. The college shall use
9 the most recent federal free application for federal student
10 aid form to determine expected family contribution and shall
11 do so annually in accordance with W.S. 21-18-404.

12

13 **21-18-403. Wyoming works program created; eligibility**
14 **requirements.**

15

16 (a) There is created the Wyoming works program for
17 Wyoming community college students.

18

19 (b) Under the Wyoming works program, subject to the
20 availability of funds as determined by the legislature, the
21 state may provide grant funds pursuant to this article on
22 behalf of an eligible student who has been accepted by and
23 enrolled in a community college to pursue a credential program

1 approved by the commission for the Wyoming works program, who
2 has demonstrated Wyoming residency as determined by the
3 community college at which the student is enrolled and who is
4 not ineligible under subsection (c) of this section. No
5 college shall require a high school diploma or high school
6 equivalency certificate as a prerequisite for admission to a
7 credential program funded in whole or in part with monies
8 under this article, unless the credential program is included
9 within a college academic credit program requiring the
10 diploma or equivalency certificate and the college provides
11 the student assistance in achieving the diploma or
12 equivalency certificate.

13

14 (c) No student shall be eligible for a grant under this
15 article for more than six (6) academic terms. A student is
16 not eligible for a grant under this article if he:

17

18 (i) Is not a United States citizen or a permanent
19 resident alien who meets the definition of an eligible
20 noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements or
21 requirements of a subsequent similar federal enactment;

22

1 (ii) Has not complied with United States selective
2 service system requirements for registration, if the
3 requirements are applicable to the student;

4

5 (iii) Is in default on a federal Title IV
6 education loan. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a student
7 who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this article and
8 has fully repaid a defaulted loan or is no longer in default,
9 from receiving a grant for future academic terms;

10

11 (iv) Owes a refund under a federal Title IV
12 student financial aid program or a subsequently enacted
13 similar federal student financial aid program, or a student
14 financial aid program administered through the state. Nothing
15 in this paragraph prohibits a student who is otherwise
16 eligible for a grant under this article and has fully paid
17 the refund owed, from receiving a grant for future academic
18 terms;

19

20 (v) For continued enrollment in a credential
21 program if he fails to make satisfactory academic progress as
22 required for the credential program by commission rule.

23

1 **21-18-404. Student grants; amounts.**

2

3 There shall be made available student grants under the Wyoming
4 works program. No grant shall exceed two thousand two hundred
5 fifty dollars (\$2,250.00) for attendance in a credential
6 program in any one (1) school year. One-half (1/2) of the
7 annual award shall be provided to the student at each fall
8 and spring academic term of qualification, unless the
9 credential program or course is for a defined period of less
10 than a full semester or the student elects to reserve any
11 portion of the annual award for attendance at a subsequent
12 summer school term. For credential programs of one (1) term
13 or less, cost of attendance and unmet financial need shall be
14 calculated on a projected annual basis, but the annual award
15 amount shall be provided in full in the term of attendance,
16 on a prorated basis.

17

18 **21-18-405. Administration; rules and regulations.**

19

20 (a) Distribution of funds for student grants shall be
21 administered by the commission in accordance with the
22 following:

23

1 (i) Distributions shall be made from funds
2 available in the Wyoming works program account;

3

4 (ii) Student grants shall be limited to students
5 enrolled in an approved credential program;

6

7 (iii) Colleges shall apply to the commission for
8 grant funds to be expended by the college on eligible students
9 for approved credential programs. The commission shall
10 provide student grant funding to each college based upon the
11 actual or projected enrollment in the approved program and
12 the commission's prioritization of program funding in
13 accordance with this article and rule of the commission;

14

15 (iv) Students shall make application for grants
16 under this article with the community college at the time of
17 applying for admission or in any event prior to the beginning
18 of the applicable credential program at the college. The
19 application shall contain information required by rule of the
20 commission;

21

22 (v) For students transferring from a community
23 college to another community college and making application

1 for continuance of a grant, the college from which the student
2 is transferring shall at the student's request provide a list
3 of all academic terms of attendance in which a Wyoming works
4 grant was received by the student;

5

6 (vi) Each community college receiving an
7 application from a student applying for a Wyoming works grant
8 shall determine the student's eligibility for the grant. Each
9 community college shall certify to the commission not later
10 than thirty (30) days after the academic term or program
11 commences, a list of students enrolled at the college who
12 qualify for a grant under this article, including the maximum
13 amount of each grant. The executive director of the community
14 college commission shall verify within ten (10) days after
15 receiving a list from a community college whether there is
16 any duplication of students on the community college list
17 with previously submitted student grant lists and shall
18 certify to the commission the maximum amount a college would
19 be eligible to receive for student grants under this article
20 for an approved program;

21

22 (vii) For students attending more than one (1)
23 community college the commission may distribute any student

1 grant funds provided on a proportionate basis as determined
2 by rule of the commission;

3

4 (viii) Following each spring semester, each
5 college shall refund to the commission the difference, if
6 any, between the amounts distributed to colleges for student
7 grants under this section for the spring term and the previous
8 fall and summer terms and the amount actually expended by
9 colleges on those student grants. Colleges shall refund the
10 difference not later than August 1. The commission shall
11 deposit all payments under this paragraph to the Wyoming works
12 program account.

13

14 (b) The commission, in consultation with each community
15 college, shall by rule designate a date or dates for each
16 academic year upon which each college shall make the final
17 computation for unmet need for students eligible to receive
18 a grant under this section, consistent with each college's
19 schedule for determining actual cost of attendance for
20 students at that college.

21

22 (c) The commission shall, in consultation with
23 community college admissions officers and financial aid

1 officers, promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
2 implement student grant provisions under this article,
3 including:

4

5 (i) A means for informing potential students of
6 the availability of the grants under this article;

7

8 (ii) Applications, forms, financial and program
9 audit procedures, eligibility and other matters related to
10 efficient operation;

11

12 (iii) Any other rules and regulations necessary
13 for the implementation and administration of student grants
14 under this article.

15

16 (d) The commission may conduct an audit of any college
17 participating in the student grant program under this article
18 to determine compliance with any student grant provision of
19 this article.

20

21 **21-18-406. Student grant limitations.**

22

1 To the extent a student grant under this article would, when
2 combined with any grant or scholarship from a student
3 financial aid program administered through the state or any
4 state institution, in any academic term exceed the cost of
5 attendance at the community college, the grant under this
6 article shall be reduced by the amount necessary to not exceed
7 the cost of attendance. The commission shall by rule require
8 that student grant funds under this article shall be provided
9 for unmet financial need and only after all other public or
10 private grants, scholarship or other financial aid available
11 for the student's enrollment in the credential program have
12 been applied.

13

14 **21-18-407. College program grant funds; distribution by**
15 **community college commission.**

16

17 (a) From monies within the Wyoming works program
18 account the commission shall distribute to colleges funds for
19 instructor positions, recruitment and marketing materials and
20 to acquire instructional and resource materials, classroom
21 equipment and other resources necessary to support the
22 Wyoming works program. The community colleges may collaborate
23 on the use of funds received from the Wyoming works program

1 account, including entering into consortium agreements for
2 operation of credential programs.

3

4 (b) Funds distributed under this section shall be
5 subject to the following:

6

7 (i) The funds shall be designated as Wyoming works
8 program funding, accounted for separately from funding
9 provided under the allocation model under W.S. 21-18-205(c)
10 and special purpose funding under W.S. 21-18-205(e) and shall
11 not be transferred to or expended for any other purpose;

12

13 (ii) The funds shall be expended only for
14 credential programs approved by the commission. The
15 commission shall develop by rule criteria under which to
16 approve credential programs and to determine the amount of
17 funding provided. The process for approving programs for
18 funding shall reflect the primary goals of the Wyoming works
19 program to develop technical skills most in demand in a
20 college's service area or colleges' combined service areas
21 and to fund programs which are most able to immediately
22 respond to that demand by making grant funds available to
23 students able to acquire the credential needed. The criteria

1 for funding amounts shall include, at a minimum, the need for
2 the program in the community, the region's workforce needs
3 and the contribution of the program to the state's overall
4 economic development. Priority shall be given to programs
5 developed and delivered through consortiums and partnerships
6 of colleges, to those programs which, based upon enrollment
7 and projected enrollment, are most able to respond to industry
8 training needs in the community and region and to programs
9 with private funds made available to support the program.
10 Colleges shall make application for funding of credential
11 programs to the commission at times determined by rule of the
12 commission;

13

14 (iii) Any amount of funding distributed under this
15 section which remains unexpended or unencumbered at the end
16 of the biennial budget period for which it was distributed
17 shall revert to the Wyoming works program account.

18

19 **21-18-408. Account created.**

20

21 The Wyoming works program account is created. The account
22 shall consist of funds appropriated by the legislature, gifts
23 and grants accepted by the state and such other funds as

1 directed by law. Monies within the account are continuously
2 appropriated to the commission for distribution to colleges
3 as provided in this article. Interest and other earnings on
4 funds within the account shall be credited to the account.
5 Unexpended and unencumbered monies within the account at the
6 end of each fiscal year shall not lapse but shall remain in
7 the account.

8

9 **21-18-409. Legislative oversight and authority;**
10 **reporting.**

11

12 (a) Nothing in this article shall be construed to
13 constitute an entitlement to a grant established and funded
14 by the legislature. Wyoming works grants shall be subject to
15 legislative appropriation and the legislature reserves the
16 right to modify or terminate the program established under
17 this article at any time.

18

19 (b) The Wyoming community college commission shall
20 report to the legislature by October 1 of each year the
21 colleges, programs, industries and total number of students
22 served by the Wyoming works program in the preceding school
23 year. The report shall specify the funding provided to each

1 college from the Wyoming works program account. The
2 commission may require information from each college as
3 necessary to provide the report required by this section.

4

5 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-18-102(a)(xxiii) and 21-18-205 by
6 creating a new subsection (h) are amended to read:

7

8 **21-18-102. Definitions.**

9

10 (a) As used in this act:

11

12 (xxiii) "This act" means W.S. 21-18-101 through
13 ~~21-18-319~~ 21-18-409.

14

15 **21-18-205. Appropriation and distribution of state**
16 **funds; restrictions; budget authority.**

17

18 (h) The commission may request funding for and shall
19 distribute funds to colleges as provided in the Wyoming works
20 program. Funds requested for the Wyoming works program shall
21 be requested by an exception budget and designated as separate
22 special funding for the Wyoming works program only. Funds
23 distributed pursuant to the Wyoming works program shall be

1 accounted for and distributed separately from the funding
2 allocation model under subsection (c) of this section and
3 from special funding distributed pursuant to subsection (e)
4 of this section.

5
6 **Section 3.** The unobligated, unencumbered balance in the
7 Wyoming workforce development-priority economic sector
8 partnership subaccount created by W.S. 9-12-1404(a)(iii)
9 shall be deposited to the Wyoming works program account. In
10 addition, from funds within the strategic investments and
11 projects account there is appropriated to the Wyoming works
12 program account funds as necessary so that the total
13 appropriation to the Wyoming works program account under this
14 section is equal to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000.00).
15 These appropriations shall be made upon the effective date of
16 this act. All funds deposited to the Wyoming works program
17 account under this section shall only be expended as provided
18 by the Wyoming works program and this act. Notwithstanding
19 any other provision of law, these appropriations shall not be
20 transferred or expended for any other purpose.

21

1 **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as
3 provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

4

5

(END)