

SENATE FILE NO. SF0038

Nursing education.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to nursing education programs; establishing
2 a Wyoming investment in nursing program as specified;
3 specifying eligibility criteria; providing procedures for
4 application, administration and repayment of loans under
5 the Wyoming investment in nursing program as specified;
6 providing for appeals; requiring the Wyoming community
7 college commission to coordinate the development and
8 implementation of a mobile nurse education program as
9 specified; requiring the commission to coordinate internet
10 or similar proprietary or common carrier electronic system
11 courses to meet prerequisites for entry into nursing
12 programs as specified; specifying conditions under which
13 the Wyoming community college commission and the University
14 of Wyoming shall fund additional teaching positions in
15 nursing education programs; providing an appropriation; and
16 providing for an effective date.

1

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

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4 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-123 is created to read:

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6 **9-2-123. Wyoming investment in nursing loan and grant**
7 **program; eligibility criteria; procedures.**

8

9 (a) There is created the Wyoming investment in
10 nursing program administered by the Wyoming higher
11 education assistance authority created under W.S.
12 21-16-703. The program shall be known as the WYIN program.
13 Applicants may apply for grants or loans from the WYIN
14 program in accordance with this section.

15

16 (b) To qualify for a loan or grant under the WYIN
17 program, the applicant shall first:

18

19 (i) Be accepted into a nursing education program
20 at a Wyoming community college, the University of Wyoming,
21 or, in the case of a candidate for a doctoral degree, an
22 institution providing the required nursing education
23 courses under contract with the western interstate
24 commission for higher education; and

1

2 (ii) Apply for federal financial
3 assistance. Wyoming community colleges shall allow
4 students who apply for admission into an approved nurse
5 aide training or nursing education program, and who will
6 enroll in fewer than six (6) academic credit hours, to
7 apply for federal financial assistance.

8

9 (c) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated
10 for this program, loans under the WYIN program may be
11 granted to applicants enrolled or planning to enroll in
12 nursing education programs as follows:

13

14 (i) An applicant who is accepted into a Wyoming
15 licensed practical nurse or registered nursing education
16 program may be eligible for a loan to pay the costs of
17 attendance at the licensed practical nursing education
18 program or the registered nursing education program.
19 Students who complete a licensed practical nursing
20 education program at a Wyoming community college shall be
21 deemed to have completed all first year nursing education
22 program requirements for a registered nursing education
23 program leading to an associate's degree offered at the

1 Wyoming community college which awarded the license
2 practical nurse certificate;

3

4 (ii) A registered nurse with a baccalaureate
5 degree who holds an unencumbered license with the Wyoming
6 board of nursing, has the equivalent of at least two (2)
7 years of full-time, continuous service teaching in a
8 nursing program in Wyoming as a registered nurse with a
9 baccalaureate degree and is accepted into a Wyoming nursing
10 education program at the University of Wyoming leading to a
11 master's degree in nursing may be eligible for a loan to
12 pay the costs of attendance at the nursing education
13 program leading to a master's degree in nursing provided
14 that in order to receive a loan for a master's degree
15 program, the applicant shall agree to repay the loan by
16 teaching at a Wyoming college or the University of Wyoming;

17

18 (iii) A registered nurse with a master's degree
19 in nursing who holds an unencumbered license with the
20 Wyoming board of nursing, has the equivalent of at least
21 two (2) years of full-time, continuous service teaching in
22 a nursing program in Wyoming as a registered nurse with a
23 master's degree in nursing and is accepted into a nursing
24 education program at an institution providing the required

1 nursing education courses under contract with the western
2 interstate commission for higher education leading to a
3 doctorate level degree in nursing may be eligible for a
4 loan to pay the costs of attendance at the nursing
5 education program leading to a doctorate level degree in
6 nursing. In order to receive a loan for a Ph.D. program,
7 the applicant shall agree to repay the loan by teaching at
8 the University of Wyoming.

9

10 (d) A nurse educator at a Wyoming community college
11 or the University of Wyoming who is required to pursue an
12 advanced degree for the purpose of satisfying accreditation
13 requirements, may be eligible for both a loan and a salary
14 replacement grant not to exceed the actual salary of the
15 nurse educator at the time of entry into the advanced
16 degree program.

17

18 (e) Except for a salary replacement grant under
19 subsection (d) of this section, a grant or loan provided
20 under this section shall not exceed the cost of attendance
21 for the approved program, reduced by the amount of any Pell
22 or other federal grant received by the applicant.

23

1 (f) A recipient of a WYIN loan under this section may
2 repay the loan without cash payment by working in Wyoming
3 as a nurse or nurse educator as provided in subsection (g)
4 of this section. To qualify as repayment under this
5 subsection, work shall be performed within the following
6 time periods which begin with the calendar month following
7 the month in which the student completed the academic
8 program:

9
10 (i) If the loan can be repaid with work of two
11 (2) years or less, within four (4) years;

12
13 (ii) If the loan can be repaid with work of
14 greater than two (2) years, but no more than four (4)
15 years, within six (6) years;

16
17 (iii) If the loan can be repaid with work of
18 greater than four (4) years, within the amount of time the
19 loan could be repaid, plus two (2) years.

20
21 (g) Qualified work under subsection (f) of this
22 section shall be credited so that the student's loan
23 balance is reduced on the basis of one (1) year of full-
24 time employment repaying the loan balance for one (1)

1 academic year. Qualified work shall be credited on a
2 proportional basis.

3

4 (h) Notwithstanding subsection (g) of this section,
5 for a recipient of both a WYIN loan and a salary
6 replacement grant, qualified work under subsection (f) of
7 this section shall be credited so that the student's loan
8 balance is reduced on the basis of two (2) years of full-
9 time employment repaying the loan balance for one (1)
10 academic year. Qualified work shall be credited on a
11 proportional basis.

12

13 (j) Any recipient of a WYIN loan who fails:

14

15 (i) To complete the academic program for which
16 the loan was provided shall commence repayment of the loan
17 no later than forty-five (45) days after the recipient
18 leaves the academic program;

19

20 (ii) To obtain employment in the targeted
21 occupation for which the person received the education
22 within ninety (90) days after successfully passing the
23 appropriate certification examination shall commence
24 repayment of the loan within one hundred twenty (120) days

1 after successfully passing the appropriate certification
2 examination;

3

4 (iii) The appropriate certification examination
5 on the first attempt may retake the appropriate
6 certification examination at the next available opportunity
7 before commencing repayment of the loan. The recipient
8 shall notify the Wyoming higher education assistance
9 authority or its contractor of the intent to retake the
10 examination and the date the examination will be taken. Any
11 recipient of a WYIN loan who fails the appropriate
12 certification examination after the second attempt shall
13 commence repayment of the loan within forty-five (45) days
14 after receipt of notification of the second failure by the
15 board of nursing. If the recipient of a WYIN loan who fails
16 the appropriate certification examination on the first
17 attempt does not retake the examination at the next
18 available opportunity, repayment shall commence within
19 forty-five (45) days after the next available examination
20 is conducted.

21

22 (k) Loan repayment options under this section may be
23 deferred for a period not to exceed six (6) years while a

1 loan recipient is serving on full-time active duty with any
2 branch of the military services of the United States.

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4 (m) The Wyoming higher education assistance authority
5 shall have the powers and duties specified in W.S.
6 21-16-705 to implement this section and shall establish
7 terms and conditions of loans issued under this section,
8 including:

9

10 (i) Interest rates and loan terms;

11

12 (ii) The form and process for loan application,
13 review and award;

14

15 (iii) Criteria under which students may be
16 relieved from having to repay loans and interest thereon,
17 in whole or in part, where the requirement to repay would
18 cause undue hardship.

19

20 (n) Funding of the targeted loan program established
21 under this section shall be by appropriation of the
22 legislature. The authority shall transfer approved loan
23 amounts to the university of Wyoming and to Wyoming
24 community colleges at which loan recipients are enrolled.

1 In consultation with the university and affected community
2 colleges, the authority shall establish procedures for
3 transferring loan amounts and for reporting requirements on
4 the expenditure of transferred loan amounts.

5

6 (o) Repayment of loans and interest thereon shall be
7 credited to the general fund.

8

9 (p) The authority shall annually review the targeted
10 loan program established under this section and report to
11 the governor and the legislature in accordance with W.S.
12 9-2-1014, regarding program results, funds received and
13 loans issued during the preceding academic year, together
14 with the status of all outstanding loan commitments and
15 repayments under the program.

16

17 (q) Any person beginning a nursing education program
18 as authorized by this section shall continue to receive
19 funding for the program so long as the person remains
20 eligible as required by this section.

21

22 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-17-107, 21-18-202(b) by creating
23 new paragraphs (v) and (vi) and (c) by creating a new
24 paragraph (vii) and 21-18-317 are amended to read:

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21-17-107. Legislature to make appropriations.

3

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(a) The legislature shall appropriate monies intended for the support and maintenance of the University of Wyoming. The appropriations shall specify the purposes for which the monies are intended and may be used. The appropriations shall apply to and include all monies received by the university from the United States for the endowment and support of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and mechanic arts. No expenditure shall be made in excess of an appropriation, and no monies so appropriated shall be used for any purpose other than that for which they are appropriated.

15

16

(b) The board of trustees shall fund an entry level teaching faculty position when the university expands its nursing program capacity by not less than eight (8) students. The university shall expend the funding under this paragraph only if enrollment in the nursing program of the university was not less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the total nursing program capacity at the beginning of the most recent fall academic semester. Funding available for expenditure under this paragraph for the specific

24

1 purpose of expanding a nursing program capacity shall be
2 reduced by an amount equal to that provided to fund one (1)
3 entry level teaching position for every reduction of eight
4 (8) full-time equivalent students in the nursing program,
5 as determined by comparing the beginning enrollments of the
6 two (2) most recent fall academic semesters. Any
7 appropriation made for purposes of this subsection shall be
8 accounted for and distributed separately from
9 appropriations made pursuant to subsection (a) of this
10 section.

11
12 **21-18-202. Powers and duties of the commission.**

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14 (b) The commission shall perform the following
15 coordination functions. In performing these coordination
16 functions all affected colleges and the commission shall be
17 involved:

18
19 (v) Coordinate the development and
20 implementation of a mobile nurse education program which
21 shall provide appropriate educational services to students
22 enrolled in a nurse education program who are unable to
23 attend classes at a community college campus, including:

24

1 (A) Reviewing applications for access by
2 communities to the program;

3

4 (B) Establishing by rule and regulation the
5 application, review and decision process by which
6 communities will be served and the order in which they will
7 be served;

8

9 (C) Contracting with a Wyoming community
10 college to provide the program established under this
11 paragraph, giving due consideration to the community
12 college with responsibility for the service area in which
13 the community selected to host the program is located.

14

15 (vi) Coordinate the provision by means of
16 electronic internet or similar proprietary or common
17 carrier electronic system technology, by a community
18 college or several community colleges, of all prerequisite
19 courses necessary for entry into an educational program in
20 the field of nursing at a community college or a
21 baccalaureate degree program in nursing at the University
22 of Wyoming.

23

1 (c) The commission shall perform the following
2 administrative functions:

3
4 (vii) The commission shall fully fund an entry
5 level teaching faculty position when a community college
6 expands its nursing program capacity by not less than eight
7 (8) students. A community college shall be eligible to
8 apply for the funding under this paragraph only if
9 enrollment in the nursing program of the applicant
10 institution was not less than ninety-five percent (95%) of
11 the total nursing program capacity at the beginning of the
12 most recent fall academic semester. Funding provided under
13 this paragraph for the specific purpose of expanding a
14 nursing program capacity shall be reduced by an amount
15 equal to that provided to fund one (1) entry level teaching
16 position for every reduction of eight (8) full-time
17 equivalent students in the nursing program, as determined
18 by comparing the beginning enrollments of the two (2) most
19 recent fall academic semesters. Funding reductions shall
20 not exceed the total amount of funding provided to a
21 community college under this paragraph. Any appropriation
22 made for purposes of this paragraph shall, in accordance
23 with W.S. 21-18-205(e), be accounted for and distributed

1 separately from the funding allocation model for community
2 colleges.

3

4 **21-18-317. Authority to provide educational program;**
5 **scope and approval of program.**

6

7 The community college district board of any community
8 college in this state may provide ~~the~~an educational
9 program ~~education~~ in the field of nursing. The educational
10 program shall be of ~~such~~the duration and intensity as may
11 be deemed appropriate by the community college district
12 board and the Wyoming state board of nursing and shall lead
13 to an associate degree in nursing and prepare each student
14 for licensure as provided by law. Approval of the Wyoming
15 state board of nursing is required prior to the
16 establishment of ~~any such~~the nursing education.

17

18 **Section 3.** There is appropriated one million dollars
19 (\$1,000,000.00) to the Wyoming higher education assistance
20 authority from the general fund for the biennium beginning
21 July 1, 2002 to implement the provisions of W.S. 9-2-123.
22 Any funds appropriated under this subsection that are not
23 expended, encumbered or obligated at the end of the

1 biennium shall revert to the general fund as provided by
2 W.S. 9-4-207.

3

4 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2002.

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(END)