

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0135

Nursing loan and grant program-amendments.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Hinckley

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the Wyoming investment in nursing loan
 2 and grant program; transferring program administration from
 3 the Wyoming higher education assistance authority to the
 4 Wyoming community college commission; accordingly
 5 transferring program regulations and funds; providing an
 6 appropriation and authorizing a position; and providing for
 7 an effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-123(a), (c)(i) through (iii),
 12 (g)(iii), (j)(intro), (k) and (n) and 21-18-202(c) by
 13 creating a new paragraph (viii) are amended to read:

14

15 **9-2-123. Wyoming investment in nursing loan and grant**
 16 **program; eligibility criteria; procedures.**

17

1 (a) There is created the Wyoming investment in
2 nursing program administered by the Wyoming ~~higher~~
3 ~~education assistance authority created under W.S. 21-16-703~~
4 community college commission. The commission may contract
5 with appropriate expertise and professionals in
6 administering this section and in carrying out duties
7 imposed by this section. The program shall be known as the
8 WYIN program. Applicants shall be residents of this state
9 or graduates of a Wyoming high school and may apply for
10 loans from the WYIN program in accordance with this
11 section.

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

17
18 (i) An applicant who is accepted into a Wyoming
19 licensed practical nurse or registered nursing education
20 program or a baccalaureate degree program in nursing may be
21 eligible for a loan to pay the unmet need, as determined by
22 the Wyoming ~~higher education assistance authority or its~~
23 ~~designee~~ community college commission, of attendance at the
24 licensed practical nursing education program or the

1 registered nursing education program leading to an
2 associate's or baccalaureate degree;

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 one (1)
7 year of full-time service teaching in a nursing education
8 program in Wyoming as a registered nurse with a
9 baccalaureate degree and is accepted into a nursing
10 education program at the University of Wyoming leading to a
11 master's degree in nursing or nursing education may be
12 eligible for a loan to pay the unmet need of attendance, as
13 determined by the Wyoming ~~higher education assistance~~
14 ~~authority or its designee~~ community college commission,
15 provided that in order to receive a loan for a master's
16 degree program, the applicant shall agree to repay the loan
17 by teaching at a Wyoming college or the University of
18 Wyoming;

19

20 (iii) A registered nurse with a master's degree
21 in nursing who holds an unencumbered license with the
22 Wyoming board of nursing, has the equivalent of at least
23 one (1) year of full-time service teaching in a nursing
24 education program in Wyoming as a registered nurse with a

1 master's degree in nursing and is accepted into a nursing
2 education program at an institution providing the required
3 nursing education courses under contract with the western
4 interstate commission for higher education or in a distance
5 nursing education program at a university that is
6 regionally accredited leading to a doctorate level degree
7 in nursing may be eligible for a loan to pay the unmet need
8 of attendance, as determined by the Wyoming ~~higher~~
9 ~~education assistance authority or its designee~~ community
10 college commission, provided that in order to receive a
11 loan for a doctorate level degree program, the applicant
12 shall agree to repay the loan by teaching at the University
13 of Wyoming.

14

15 (g) Any recipient of a WYIN loan who fails:

16

17 (iii) The appropriate certification or licensure
18 examination on the first attempt may retake the examination
19 at the next available opportunity before commencing
20 repayment of the loan. The recipient shall notify the
21 Wyoming ~~higher education assistance authority or its~~
22 ~~contractor~~ community college commission of the intent to
23 retake the examination and the date the examination will be
24 taken. Any recipient of a WYIN loan who fails the

1 examination after the second attempt shall commence cash
2 repayment of the loan within forty-five (45) days after
3 receipt of notification of the second failure by the board
4 of nursing. If the recipient of a WYIN loan who fails the
5 examination on the first attempt does not retake the
6 examination at the next available opportunity, cash
7 repayment shall commence within forty-five (45) days after
8 the next available examination is conducted.

9
10 (j) The Wyoming ~~higher education assistance authority~~
11 ~~shall have the powers and duties specified in W.S.~~
12 ~~21-16-705 to~~ community college commission shall implement
13 this section and shall establish terms and conditions of
14 loans issued under this section, including:

15
16 (k) Funding of the loan program established under
17 this section shall be by appropriation of the legislature.
18 The ~~authority~~ commission shall transfer approved loan
19 amounts to the University of Wyoming and to Wyoming
20 community colleges at which loan recipients are enrolled.
21 In consultation with the university and affected community
22 colleges, the ~~authority~~ commission shall establish
23 procedures for transferring loan amounts and for reporting

1 requirements on the expenditure of transferred loan
2 amounts.

3

4 (n) The ~~authority~~commission shall annually review
5 the loan program established under this section and report
6 to the governor and the legislature in accordance with W.S.
7 9-2-1014, regarding program results, funds received and
8 loans issued during the preceding academic year, together
9 with the status of all outstanding loan commitments and
10 repayments under the program.

11

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

13

14 (c) The commission shall perform the following
15 administrative functions:

16

17 (viii) Administer the Wyoming investment in
18 nursing loan and grant program established under W.S.
19 9-2-123.

20

21 **Section 2.**

22

23 (a) Any policies and rules and regulations adopted
24 and promulgated by the Wyoming higher education assistance

1 authority to administer the Wyoming investment in nursing
2 loan and grant program under W.S. 9-2-123(a), and in effect
3 prior to the effective date of this act, shall remain in
4 effect unaltered as rules and regulation of the Wyoming
5 community college commission until amended or repealed by
6 the commission.

7

8 (b) Any unexpended, unobligated or unencumbered funds
9 as of the effective date of this act which were
10 appropriated to the Wyoming higher education assistance
11 authority under 2004 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 95,
12 Section 047, shall be transferred to the Wyoming community
13 college commission.

14

15 (c) In addition to subsection (b) of this section,
16 eighty-five thousand seven dollars (\$85,007.00) is
17 appropriated from the general fund to the Wyoming community
18 college commission to administer this act. The commission
19 is authorized one (1) additional full-time position. Of
20 the appropriation under this subsection, up to ten thousand
21 dollars (\$10,000.00) may be expended for contractual
22 services.

23

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

5

6

(END)