

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0147

Wyoming school administrators scholarship fund.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to a scholarship program for prospective
2 school administrators; establishing a scholarship program
3 through the University of Wyoming; specifying terms and
4 conditions; requiring an annual report regarding benefits
5 to Wyoming students and school districts provided by
6 scholarship recipients; providing a termination date;
7 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
8 date.

9

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

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-17-116 is created to read:

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14 **21-17-116. Wyoming school administrators scholarship**
15 **fund created; eligibility criteria; procedures; reports;**
16 **termination date.**

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1 (a) There is created the Wyoming school
2 administrators scholarship fund which shall be administered
3 by the University of Wyoming. The purpose of the
4 scholarship fund is to increase the number of persons
5 qualified to serve as administrators in Wyoming public
6 education. Eligible scholarship applicants shall be
7 residents of this state who are employed by a Wyoming
8 school district and who have not less than three (3) years
9 of experience in Wyoming public education.

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11 (b) To qualify for a scholarship under this section,
12 the applicant shall:

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14 (i) Submit an application to the university
15 financial aid office on a form prescribed by the office
16 developed in consultation with the college of education;
17 and

18

19 (ii) Be accepted into one (1) of the following
20 programs within the college of education at the university:

21

22 (A) Principal endorsement program;

23

1 (B) Master's degree program for principal
2 preparation; or

3

4 (C) Doctoral degree program in education
5 leadership.

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7 (c) To the extent funds are appropriated by the
8 legislature to the program created under this section,
9 scholarships shall be granted to applicants subject to the
10 following:

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12 (i) Scholarships shall be awarded by the
13 university through the college of education by a committee
14 appointed by the college dean for that purpose. The
15 committee shall consider the extent of the applicant's
16 employment experience in education and the applicant's
17 interest in pursuing a career in educational administration
18 in Wyoming as demonstrated by relevant experience and
19 activities;

20

21 (ii) The amount of each scholarship shall be two
22 thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for each year the
23 recipient is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a

1 program specified under paragraph (b)(ii) of this section,
2 but not to exceed:

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4 (A) For the principal endorsement program,
5 two (2) years;

6

7 (B) For the masters degree program for
8 principal preparation, three (3) years; and

9

10 (C) For the doctoral degree program in
11 education leadership, five (5) years.

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13 (d) Funding of the scholarship program established
14 under this section shall be by appropriation of the
15 legislature. The university shall make commitments of
16 scholarship funds to students only to the extent that the
17 available appropriations are sufficient to fund annual
18 scholarship payments to the student for the periods
19 specified in paragraph (c)(ii) of this section.

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21 (e) Students who receive a scholarship under this
22 section shall report annually not later than July 1 to the
23 university college of education for three (3) calendar
24 years following the year in which they complete the program

1 regarding the extent to which the program has enabled them
2 to provide benefits to the students in the Wyoming school
3 district in which they serve. Not later than October 15 of
4 each year, the university, through the college of
5 education, shall report to the joint education interim
6 committee regarding the scholarship program established
7 under this section. The report shall contain the number of
8 scholarships issued for each program, a summary of the
9 reports submitted by students who have completed a program
10 and comprehensive information regarding repayments required
11 under subsection (f) of this section.

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13 (f) Scholarship recipients who fail to complete the
14 program, who fail to submit the required report under
15 subsection (e) of this section or who accept employment in
16 another state within three (3) years following completion
17 of the program shall repay the scholarship to the
18 university, along with all reasonable costs necessary to
19 secure repayment. Repayments shall be made in monthly
20 payments over the same period as the duration of the
21 program for which the scholarship was granted. Repayments
22 shall be separately accounted for by the university and
23 used exclusively for scholarships under this section. A
24 student may be relieved of the requirement to repay the

1 scholarship if the requirement to repay would cause undue
2 hardship. In determining if undue hardship would be caused,
3 the university shall apply criteria similar to the criteria
4 developed for nursing education scholarships under W.S.
5 9-1-123(j)(ii).

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7 (g) The scholarship program created by this section
8 shall terminate effective June 30, 2009.

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10 **Section 2.** Two hundred fifty thousand dollars
11 (\$250,000.00) is appropriated from the common school
12 permanent fund reserve account established under W.S.
13 9-4-713(f) to the University of Wyoming to fund the
14 scholarship program established under this act. This
15 appropriation shall be separately accounted for and not
16 included in the university block grant.

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

22

23

(END)