

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0307

Student tuition assistance-2.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Bagby, Buchanan, Hinckley, Lockhart, Pedersen, Reese, Slater, Walsh, Warren and Wasserburger and Senator(s) Coe, Peck and Ross

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the Wyoming student tuition scholarship
 2 program at the University of Wyoming; establishing the
 3 program; specifying eligibility criteria, conditions and
 4 limitations; providing for administration by the university
 5 subject to funds made available by legislative
 6 appropriation; imposing duties; imposing reporting
 7 requirements; specifying legislative intent; providing
 8 appropriations; and providing for an effective 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:

13

14 **21-17-116. Wyoming tuition scholarship program;**
 15 **eligibility criteria specified; petition for reinstatement**

1 **upon ineligibility; program administration and funding;**
2 **annual report.**

3

4 (a) The University of Wyoming shall award a tuition
5 scholarship to any person who enrolls in the university as
6 a freshman and who qualifies for admission as a Wyoming
7 resident student for tuition assessment purposes in
8 accordance with the residency policy of the university as
9 established under applicable law and rules of the
10 university's board of trustees. Tuition scholarships for
11 enrollment at the university shall be awarded as four (4)
12 year scholarships. Scholarship recipients shall:

13

14 (i) Be admitted, enrolled and classified as an
15 undergraduate student in a defined program of study leading
16 to a degree at the university;

17

18 (ii) If initially enrolling at the university as
19 a freshman prior to the 2008-2009 academic year, have
20 graduated from a Wyoming high school by successfully
21 completing four (4) school years of English, three (3)
22 school years of mathematics, three (3) school years of
23 science and three (3) school years of social studies;

24

1 (iii) If initially enrolling at the university
2 as a freshman on or after the 2008-2009 academic year, have
3 graduated from a Wyoming high school by successfully
4 completing four (4) school years for each of English,
5 mathematics and science and three (3) school years of
6 social studies;

7

8 (iv) Have demonstrated advanced proficiency in
9 five (5) of the nine (9) content areas prescribed by the
10 state board of education for high school graduation, with
11 demonstrated proficiency in the remaining content areas;

12

13 (v) Have successfully demonstrated proficiency
14 in progress and performance measurements under the
15 statewide assessment administered in accordance with W.S.
16 21-2-304(a) (v);

17

18 (vi) Have graduated from a Wyoming high school
19 with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater on
20 a 4.0 scale;

21

22 (vii) Have received an enhanced ACT composite
23 score of twenty and four-tenths (20.4) or higher.

24

1 (b) In addition to subsection (a) of this section, a
2 scholarship recipient shall receive an amount equal to
3 mandatory fees as prescribed in the cost of attendance
4 rules for assistance under Title IV of the Federal Higher
5 Education Assistance Act, plus a book allowance of two
6 hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per academic semester.

7

8 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section
9 and if a parent or legal guardian is serving in active
10 military duty and is stationed outside of Wyoming as a
11 result of military service, the program applicant shall
12 provide evidence that his parent or guardian was a resident
13 at the time the parent or guardian entered military service
14 and continues to maintain Wyoming as his state of voter
15 registration and home of record.

16

17 (d) To continue scholarship eligibility, a recipient
18 student shall maintain:

19

20 (i) A cumulative grade point average of at least
21 2.75 at the university;

22

23 (ii) Maintain satisfactory academic progress in
24 the defined program of study; and

1

2 (iii) Maintain a minimum of twelve (12) hours of
3 enrollment during any academic semester in which the
4 recipient is receiving the scholarship.

5

6 (e) Except as provided under subsection (h) of this
7 section, a scholarship awarded to a recipient under this
8 section shall terminate upon:

9

10 (i) The conclusion of four (4) consecutive
11 academic years if the recipient otherwise maintains
12 eligibility under this section;

13

14 (ii) Any semester following initial receipt of a
15 scholarship in which the recipient is not enrolled shall be
16 included in computing the academic year limitations for
17 that recipient.

18

19 (f) Any tuition scholarship recipient who fails to
20 maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75
21 or who fails to satisfactorily complete the minimum number
22 of credit hours of enrollment during any academic semester,
23 as required under subsection (d) of this section, may
24 petition the university for reinstatement after the

1 recipient satisfactorily completes the minimum number of
2 hours of enrollment in a subsequent academic semester
3 required for that scholarship and otherwise complies with
4 applicable eligibility requirements imposed under this
5 section.

6

7 (g) The loss of the scholarship award under this
8 section for one (1) or more semesters does not extend the
9 academic year limitation imposed under subsection (e) of
10 this section. Upon request of a scholarship recipient, the
11 university may exempt the recipient from this subsection
12 for good cause.

13

14 (h) Upon application by a scholarship recipient, the
15 academic year limitation prescribed under subsection (e) of
16 this section may be extended for a period of up to four (4)
17 years while the recipient is serving on full-time active
18 duty with any branch of the United States military
19 services.

20

21 (j) The student tuition scholarship program
22 established under this section shall be administered by the
23 university from funds appropriated by the legislature. The
24 university shall establish policy for program

1 administration including reporting procedures for
2 scholarship recipients, the maintenance of information on
3 scholarship candidates and recipients and the accounting of
4 actual scholarship recipients from amounts appropriated.

5

6 (k) The university shall report annually to the
7 legislature in accordance with W.S. 9-2-1014 on the tuition
8 scholarship program established under this section,
9 specifying funds received and recipients enrolled during
10 the reportable academic year.

11

12 (m) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
13 constitute an entitlement to tuition scholarships
14 established and funded by the legislature. Program
15 scholarships shall be subject to legislative appropriation
16 and the legislature reserves the right to terminate the
17 program at any time.

18

19 **Section 2.**

20

21 (a) Tuition scholarships are to be awarded by the
22 University of Wyoming beginning with the 2005 fall academic
23 semester.

24

1 (b) Four million seven hundred eighty-five thousand
2 three hundred sixty dollars (\$4,785,360.00) is appropriated
3 from the general fund to the University of Wyoming for the
4 implementation of this act during fiscal year 2006.

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6 (c) Amounts appropriated under this section shall be
7 separately accounted for and not included within the
8 university's block grant.

9

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

14

15

(END)