SENATE FILE NO. SF0086

Higher education appropriations.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to higher education; providing appropriations for the Hathaway student scholarship program and for a higher education endowment program; authorizing additional positions to implement the scholarship program; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1.

(a) Five hundred fifty six thousand two hundred dollars ($556,200.00) is appropriated from the general fund to the department of education to carry out the duties of the department under the Hathaway scholarship program pursuant to W.S. 21-16-1301 et seq. The department of education is authorized four (4) full-time positions to administer the program. These positions shall be funded

from amounts appropriated under this subsection. This appropriation and authorized positions shall be effective immediately upon the effective date of this act.

(b) Thirteen million five hundred thousand dollars ($13,500,000.00) is appropriated from the common school permanent fund reserve account created by W.S. 9-4-713(f) to the Hathaway scholarship expenditure account for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. This appropriation shall be effective July 1, 2006. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall only be deposited to the expenditure account after all other funds within that account have been expended and shall only be deposited to that account and expended as needed to fund payments to eligible institutions under the Hathaway scholarship program as provided in W.S. 21-16-1301 et seq. After all such payments are made for the 2006-2007 school year, any remaining funds shall be deposited from this appropriation to the Hathaway scholarship reserve account created by W.S. 21-16-1302(b). None of the amount appropriated under this subsection shall be used to calculate the balance of the common school permanent fund reserve account for purposes of W.S. 9-4-713(f).

(c) There is appropriated from the common school permanent fund reserve account created by W.S. 9-4-713(f) a total of four million two hundred thousand dollars ($4,200,000.00) to be distributed as specified in this subsection to permit the community colleges and the University of Wyoming to begin to implement the plan for the excellence in higher education endowment as submitted by the excellence in higher education endowment committee on October 1, 2005, during the biennium commencing July 1, 2006. The purpose of this appropriation is to permit the community colleges and university to implement the plan during the first two (2) years of a three (3) year phase-in period. Of this appropriation:

(i) One million four hundred thousand dollars ($1,400,000.00) shall be equally distributed among each of Wyoming's seven (7) community colleges and shall be expended exclusively for the purposes specified in W.S. 21-16-1203(b);

(ii) Two million eight hundred thousand dollars ($2,800,000.00) shall be distributed to the University of Wyoming and shall be expended exclusively for the purposes specified in W.S. 21-16-1202(b).

(d) To the extent 2006 House Bill 0001, as enacted into law, appropriates any funds to the department of education for the purposes stated in this act, then the appropriations in this act shall be reduced by the amount of the appropriations in 2006 House Bill 0001.

Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2006.

(END)