

SENATE FILE NO. SF0109

School administrators loan fund.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Job

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to higher education; establishing a loan  
 2 program for teachers to pursue education at the University  
 3 of Wyoming to be certified as school administrators;  
 4 specifying terms and conditions of the loan program;  
 5 requiring annual report from loan recipients; providing a  
 6 termination date; providing an appropriation; and providing  
 7 for an effective date.

8

9 Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

10

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

12

13 **21-17-116. Wyoming school administrators loan fund**  
 14 **created; eligibility criteria; procedures; reports;**  
 15 **termination date.**

16

1           (a) There is created the Wyoming school  
2 administrators loan fund which shall be administered by the  
3 Wyoming community college commission. The purpose of the  
4 loan fund is to increase the number of persons qualified to  
5 serve as administrators in Wyoming public education.  
6 Eligible loan applicants shall be residents of this state  
7 who are employed by a Wyoming school district, who have at  
8 least three (3) years of experience in Wyoming public  
9 education and who were not enrolled in a program specified  
10 under paragraphs (b)(i) through (iii) of this section  
11 before summer semester 2006.

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13           (b) To qualify for a loan under this section, the  
14 applicant shall be accepted into one (1) of the following  
15 programs within the college of education at the university:

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17                   (i) Principal endorsement program;

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19                   (ii) Master's degree program for principal  
20 preparation; or

21

22                   (iii) Doctoral degree program in education  
23 leadership.

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1           (c) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated  
2 for this program, loans shall be granted to applicants  
3 subject to the following:

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5           (i) Loans shall be awarded by the commission  
6 upon the decision of a committee appointed by the dean of  
7 the university's college of education for that purpose.  
8 The committee in making its decision shall consider the  
9 extent of the applicant's employment experience in  
10 education and the applicant's interest in pursuing a career  
11 in educational administration in Wyoming as demonstrated by  
12 relevant experience and activities;

13  
14           (ii) The amount of each loan shall be one  
15 hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each course credit hour in  
16 which the recipient is enrolled in a program specified  
17 under paragraphs (b)(i) through (iii) of this section, but  
18 shall not exceed:

19  
20           (A) For the principal endorsement program,  
21 eighteen (18) credit hours during a two (2) year period;

22

1                   (B) For the master's degree program for  
2 principal preparation, thirty-three (33) credit hours  
3 during a three (3) year period; and

4  
5                   (C) For the doctoral degree program in  
6 education leadership, forty-five (45) credit hours during a  
7 five (5) year period.

8  
9                   (iii) Recipients shall be required to make  
10 continual satisfactory progress toward completion of the  
11 selected degree program.

12  
13                  (d) Funding of the loan program established under  
14 this section shall be by appropriation of the legislature.  
15 The commission shall make commitments of the loan funds to  
16 students only to the extent that the available  
17 appropriations are sufficient to fund all anticipated  
18 annual loan payments to the student for the periods  
19 specified in paragraph (c)(ii) of this section.

20  
21                  (e) Students who receive a loan under this section  
22 shall report annually not later than July 1 to the  
23 commission for two (2) calendar years for endorsement  
24 program students, three (3) calendar years for master's

1 degree students and five (5) calendar years for doctoral  
2 students, following the calendar year in which the  
3 recipient completes the program, regarding the extent to  
4 which the program has enabled the recipient to provide  
5 benefits to the students in the Wyoming school district in  
6 which they are employed. During the applicable reporting  
7 period required under this subsection, loan recipients  
8 shall report their failure to be employed by a Wyoming  
9 school district not later than thirty (30) days after such  
10 employment ceases.

11

12 (f) A recipient of a loan under this section shall  
13 commence cash repayment of the loan with forty-five (45)  
14 days after:

15

16 (i) Leaving the academic program without  
17 completion of the degree program for which the loan was  
18 provided;

19

20 (ii) Failing to submit the required report under  
21 subsection (e) of this section; or

22

1           (iii) Failure to remain employed by a Wyoming  
2 school district during the applicable reporting period  
3 required under subsection (e) of this section.

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5           (g) Loan repayment options under this section may be  
6 deferred for a period not to exceed five (5) years while a  
7 loan recipient is serving on full-time active duty with any  
8 military branch of the military services of the United  
9 States.

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11           (h) The Wyoming community college commission shall  
12 have the powers and duties specified under W.S. 21-18-202  
13 to implement this section and shall establish terms and  
14 conditions of loans issued under this section, including:

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16           (i) Interest rates and loan terms;

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18           (ii) The form and process for loan application,  
19 review and award;

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21           (iii) Criteria under which students may be  
22 relieved from having to repay loans and interest thereon,  
23 in whole or in part, where the requirement to repay would  
24 cause undue hardship.

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2 (j) The commission shall transfer approved loan  
3 amounts to the University of Wyoming for administration by  
4 its financial aid office.

5

6 (k) Cash repayment of loans and interest shall be  
7 credited to an account administered by the commission and  
8 are continuously appropriated to the commission to be used  
9 exclusively for loans and the cost of loan administration  
10 under this section.

11

12 (m) The commission shall annually review the loan  
13 program established under this section and report to the  
14 governor and the legislature in accordance with W.S.  
15 9-2-1014, regarding program results, funds received and the  
16 status of all outstanding loan commitments and repayments  
17 under the program.

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19 (n) The program created by this section shall expire  
20 effective June 30, 2011.

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22 (o) Notwithstanding subsection (n) of this section:

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1           (i) Any person who receives a loan under this  
2 section shall continue to receive funding for the program  
3 as long as the person remains eligible pursuant to this  
4 section;

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6           (ii) Repayment of loans provided under this  
7 section shall continue as specified by this section until  
8 all loan obligations have been satisfied.

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10           **Section 2.** There is appropriated two hundred forty  
11 thousand dollars (\$240,000.00) from the general fund to the  
12 Wyoming community college commission to implement this act.  
13 Not more than five percent (5%) of the amount appropriated  
14 under this section may be used by the Wyoming community  
15 college commission for the administration of the program,  
16 including expenses of the commission and loan  
17 administration fees.

18

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

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24

(END)