

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0146

Higher education commission.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Illoway

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to Wyoming higher education; establishing a  
 2 council on higher education; creating a task force to  
 3 review and recommend higher education responsibilities  
 4 assigned to the council subject to prescribed criteria;  
 5 imposing reporting requirements; providing an  
 6 appropriation; and providing for effective dates.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-16-1501 is created to read:

11

ARTICLE 15

12

COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION

13

14

15 **21-16-1501. Council on higher education created;**  
 16 **membership; terms; vacancies; compensation; initial terms;**  
 17 **meetings, bylaws and regulations.**

1

2 (a) The Wyoming council on higher education is  
3 created to consist of the following nine (9) members:

4

5 (i) The governor or his designee as an ex  
6 officio member;

7

8 (ii) The state superintendent of public  
9 instruction or his designee as an ex officio member;

10

11 (iii) The president of the University of Wyoming  
12 board of trustees or his designee as an ex officio member;

13

14 (iv) The chairman of the Wyoming community  
15 college commission or his designee, as an ex officio  
16 member;

17

18 (v) Five (5) voting members appointed by the  
19 governor as follows:

20

21 (A) One (1) member with background and  
22 experience in public post-secondary education programs at  
23 the academic level;

24

1                   (B) One (1) member with background and  
2 experience in public post-secondary education career-  
3 technical programs;

4  
5                   (C) One (1) member with background and  
6 experience in private post-secondary education programs;

7  
8                   (D) Two (2) members at large from among the  
9 residents of Wyoming.

10

11           (b) All appointed members shall serve staggered five  
12 (5) year terms or for the remainder of an unexpired term,  
13 as applicable. Vacancies shall be filled by the governor.  
14 Appointed members shall receive per diem and travel  
15 expenses in the same manner and amount as authorized under  
16 W.S. 9-3-102 and 9-3-103 for state employees when  
17 conducting official council business.

18

19           (c) Terms for council members appointed under  
20 paragraph (a)(v) of this section to the initial council are  
21 subject to the following:

22

23                   (i) Members appointed under subparagraphs  
24 (a)(v)(A) and (B) of this section and one (1) member

1 appointed under subparagraph (a)(v)(D) of this section  
2 shall serve a five (5) year term;

3

4 (ii) The member appointed under subparagraph  
5 (a)(v)(C) of this section and one (1) member appointed  
6 under subparagraph (a)(v)(D) of this section shall serve a  
7 term of three (3) years.

8

9 (c) The council shall meet not less than once every  
10 three (3) months and shall adopt bylaws and regulations  
11 necessary for its organization and the discharge of its  
12 duties as defined by law.

13

14 **Section 2.**

15

16 (a) A task force is established to review and develop  
17 recommendations on the functions of the Wyoming higher  
18 education council created by this act, to be comprised of  
19 the following:

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21 (i) A representative of the University of  
22 Wyoming board of trustees as selected by the board;

23

1           (ii) A member of the University of Wyoming  
2 administration as selected by the university president;

3

4           (iii) A member of the Wyoming community college  
5 commission as selected by the commission;

6

7           (iv) A member of the Wyoming community college  
8 commission staff as selected by the commission's executive  
9 director;

10

11           (v) A staff member of the Wyoming department of  
12 education with background and knowledge of the licensing  
13 and registration of private post-secondary education  
14 institutions under W.S. 21-2-401 through 21-2-407 as  
15 selected by the state superintendent of public instruction;

16

17           (vi) A member of the Wyoming senate selected by  
18 the chairman of the education standing committee of the  
19 Wyoming state senate;

20

21           (vii) A member of the Wyoming house of  
22 representatives selected by the chairman of the education  
23 standing committee of the Wyoming house of representatives;

24

1           (viii) A member of the Wyoming state board of  
2 education selected by the board;

3

4           (ix) A member of the governor's office as  
5 selected by the governor.

6

7           (b) Legislative members of the council selected under  
8 paragraphs (a)(vi) and (vii) of this section shall receive  
9 compensation, per diem and travel expenses in the manner  
10 and amount prescribed by W.S. 28-5-101.

11

12           (c) Not later than October 1, 2007, the task force  
13 established under this section shall submit to the  
14 governor, members of the joint education interim committee  
15 and members of the joint appropriations interim committee,  
16 a report of findings and recommendations pertaining to the  
17 scope and extent of higher education responsibilities  
18 assigned to the council created by this act, which at  
19 minimum, address the following:

20

21           (i) Duties related to public and private higher  
22 education facilities and programs in Wyoming;

23

1           (ii) Duties related to coordinating and  
2 increasing the effectiveness of higher education supported  
3 by the state;

4  
5           (iii) Duties related to the regulation and  
6 licensing of private higher education institutions and  
7 programs operating in the state;

8  
9           (iv) Duties related to the planning and  
10 regulation of orderly growth of state supported Wyoming  
11 higher education and the location of new facilities and  
12 programs;

13  
14           (v) Duties pertaining to the elimination and  
15 supervision of duplication and competition in state  
16 supported higher education programs;

17  
18           (vi) Duties pertaining to personnel, budgets,  
19 expenditures and administrative policies and procedures for  
20 Wyoming public supported higher education and the  
21 relationship between the respective boards of trustees of  
22 the state supported higher education institutions and their  
23 legal responsibilities for the management, supervision and  
24 control of the respective institution.

1

2 (e) Based upon the report received under subsection  
3 (d) of this section, the joint education interim committee  
4 shall develop recommendations and enabling legislation in  
5 sufficient time for submission to the Wyoming legislature  
6 at the 2008 budget session.

7

8 **Section 3.** Seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) or as  
9 much thereof as is necessary is appropriated from the  
10 general fund to the legislative service office for the  
11 expenses of the legislative members of the task force  
12 established under section 2 of this act. This  
13 appropriation is effective for the period beginning with  
14 the effective date of this section through June 30, 2008.

15

16 **Section 4.**

17

18 (a) Except as provided under subsection (b) of this  
19 section, this act is effective July 1, 2008.

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1           (b) Sections 2 and 3 of this act are effective  
2 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a  
3 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of  
4 the Wyoming Constitution.

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(END)