

SENATE FILE NO. SF0099

Career and technical training grants.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hastert, Esquibel, F., Geis, Massie and Sessions and Representative(s) Byrd, Jaggi, McOmie, Thompson and Throne

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to labor and employment; establishing a  
2 career and technical training scholarship program in the  
3 department of workforce services; providing definitions;  
4 providing for reimbursement of grants as specified;  
5 requiring rulemaking; providing appropriations; and  
6 providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 27-15-101 through 27-15-105 are  
11 created to read:

12

13

CHAPTER 15

14

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

15

16

ARTICLE 1

## 1 CAREER AND TECHNICAL TRAINING GRANTS

2

3 **27-15-101. Definitions.**

4

5 (a) As used in this article:

6

7 (i) "Approved career and technical training  
8 provider" means:

9

10 (A) Wyoming community colleges, the  
11 University of Wyoming, private post secondary educational  
12 institutions and private schools or organizations providing  
13 career and technical training in Wyoming which are licensed  
14 or registered under W.S. 21-2-401 through 21-2-407;

15

16 (B) Training facilities and entities  
17 approved by and registered with the office of  
18 apprenticeship, United States department of labor.

19

20 (ii) "Career and technical training" means  
21 training through an approved training career and technical  
22 training provider that develops or enhances the skills of  
23 an individual for specific careers that are based in manual  
24 or practical activities;

1

2 (iii) "Career readiness score" means qualifying  
3 scores on a multilevel career readiness pre-instructional  
4 assessment tool to qualify an individual's level of  
5 proficiency in the following measurable work-ready skills:

6

7 (A) Reading for information;

8

9 (B) Applied mathematics;

10

11 (C) Locating information;

12

13 (D) Any additional skills necessary to meet  
14 business and industry skill demand.

15

16 (iv) "Department" means the department of  
17 workforce services.

18

19 **27-15-102. Career and technical training grants**  
20 **established.**

21

22 (a) The department shall, by rule and regulation,  
23 establish and administer a program to provide training

1 grants for the training of persons participating in a  
2 career and technical training program.

3

4 (b) The primary purpose of the career and technical  
5 training grant program is to provide career and technical  
6 training grants to develop or enhance the skills of  
7 Wyoming's workforce and support employers in meeting their  
8 workforce needs based on current, projected or emerging  
9 labor shortages in the Wyoming economy.

10

11 (c) The department is authorized to promulgate rules  
12 and regulations for the purpose of implementing this  
13 article. All rules and regulations shall be promulgated in  
14 consultation with training providers and employers. No  
15 grants shall be awarded under this article until adoption  
16 of final rules pursuant to this subsection.

17

18 (d) The department may receive donations from  
19 foundations or other private sources. Any such funds  
20 received shall be deposited into a separate account and are  
21 continuously appropriated to the department, which may  
22 distribute those funds in accordance with the provisions of  
23 this article. Services eligible to be paid for by another  
24 public program shall not be reimbursed under this article.

1

2           **27-15-103. Career and technical training grants;**  
3 **eligibility.**

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5           (a) Under the career and technical training grant  
6 program, subject to availability of funds as determined by  
7 the legislature, the state shall provide a grant pursuant  
8 to this article to any trainee who has been accepted by and  
9 enrolls in an approved training program, and who meets the  
10 following qualifications:

11

12           (i) The trainee has demonstrated Wyoming  
13 residency as determined by the eligible program at which  
14 the trainee is enrolled;

15

16           (ii) The trainee has:

17

18           (A) Graduated from high school or has  
19 obtained a general equivalency diploma; and

20

21           (B) Has earned the baseline career  
22 readiness score specified under this article for the type  
23 of training to be undertaken. However, the department may  
24 provide by rule and regulation for a grant application and

1 approval process using alternative criteria that are the  
2 functional equivalent of the career readiness score.

3

4 (b) No trainee shall be eligible for a grant under  
5 this article for more than the equivalent of five (5)  
6 years. No trainee shall be eligible for a grant under this  
7 article for any period commencing after six (6) calendar  
8 years following the trainee's initial eligibility. For  
9 purposes of this subsection a trainee's initial eligibility  
10 shall be deemed to commence when the state is obligated to  
11 reimburse an eligible program for the trainee's grant under  
12 this article. The department shall by rule and regulation  
13 establish exceptions to this subsection for military  
14 service, religious service and other good cause shown.

15

16 (c) A trainee is not eligible for a grant under this  
17 article if he:

18

19 (i) Is not a United States citizen or a  
20 permanent resident alien who meets the definition of an  
21 eligible noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements or  
22 requirements of a subsequent similar federal enactment;

23

1           (ii) Has not complied with United States  
2 selective service system requirements for registration, if  
3 the requirements are applicable to the trainee;

4

5           (iii) Is in default on a federal Title IV  
6 education loan. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a  
7 trainee who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this  
8 article and has fully repaid a defaulted loan or is no  
9 longer in default, from receiving a grant after the default  
10 is cured;

11

12           (iv) Owes a refund under a federal Title IV  
13 trainee financial aid program or a subsequently enacted  
14 similar federal student financial aid program, or a student  
15 financial aid program administered through the state.  
16 Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a trainee who is  
17 otherwise eligible for a grant under this article and has  
18 fully paid the refund owed, from receiving a grant after  
19 paying the refund owed;

20

21           (v) Is incarcerated;

22

1           (vi) Has been convicted of a felony in this  
2 state or another jurisdiction and has not been granted an  
3 exception pursuant to rules adopted by the department; or

4  
5           (vii) Does not otherwise qualify under this  
6 article for a grant.

7  
8           (d) For the two (2) year period following a trainee's  
9 graduation from high school or receipt of a general  
10 equivalency diploma, awards pursuant to this article shall  
11 not exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of Hathaway  
12 opportunity scholarship awards pursuant to W.S. 21-16-1304.  
13 After two (2) years following a trainee's graduation from  
14 high school or receipt of a general equivalency diploma,  
15 awards pursuant to this article shall not exceed one  
16 hundred percent (100%) of Hathaway performance scholarship  
17 awards pursuant to W.S. 21-16-1304.

18  
19           (e) The department shall pay the cost of an eligible  
20 applicant's initial career readiness tests. Any retesting  
21 to improve an applicant's score shall be at the applicant's  
22 expense.

23

1           **27-15-104. Career and technical training grants;**  
2 **agreement; remedies upon breach; technical assistance.**

3  
4           (a) Grant payments shall be made directly to an  
5 approved career and technical training provider, and shall  
6 be conditioned upon the trainee under the grant entering  
7 into a written agreement with the department providing that  
8 the trainee shall work in Wyoming in the industry for which  
9 the trainee receives training for the period provided in  
10 the department's rules. Commitment duration shall be based  
11 on the value of the training opportunity and shall be  
12 commensurate with the magnitude of the grant.

13  
14           (b) If a trainee breaches the agreement required by  
15 subsection (a) of this section, the trainee shall repay  
16 that portion of all funds for the corresponding contract  
17 period provided on behalf of the trainee under the  
18 agreement, together with costs of collection and attorney  
19 fees. The department shall by rule and regulation  
20 establish exceptions to this subsection for military  
21 service, religious service and other good cause shown.

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1           (c) The department shall provide technical assistance  
2 to prospective trainees in the application and reporting  
3 requirements established by department rules.

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5           **27-15-105. Legislative report.**

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7 The department shall report by June 1, 2010 to the joint  
8 education interim committee, the joint labor, health and  
9 social services interim committee and the joint  
10 appropriations interim committee on the career and  
11 technical training grant program, including industry and  
12 trainee participation, numbers of persons completing  
13 training, numbers of former trainees working in Wyoming,  
14 total grant expenditures, per trainee grant expenditures  
15 and administrative expenditures.

16  
17           **Section 2.**

18  
19           (a) There is appropriated three million two hundred  
20 fifty thousand dollars (\$3,250,000.00) from the general  
21 fund to the department of workforce services. This  
22 appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the  
23 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2010. This  
24 appropriation shall only be expended for the purpose of the

1 career and technical training grants established under W.S.  
2 27-15-102 created by this act. Notwithstanding any other  
3 provision of law, this appropriation shall not be  
4 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any  
5 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this  
6 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,  
7 2010. This appropriation shall be included in the  
8 department's 2011-2012 standard biennial budget request.

9

10 (b) There is appropriated two hundred fifty thousand  
11 dollars (\$250,000.00) from the general fund to the  
12 department of workforce services. This appropriation shall  
13 be for the period beginning with the effective date of this  
14 act and ending June 30, 2010. This appropriation shall  
15 only be expended for the purpose of administering the  
16 career and technical assistance grant program established  
17 by this act, including initial career readiness testing and  
18 promotional and technical assistance activities for the  
19 program. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
20 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
21 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
22 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
23 by law on June 30, 2010. This appropriation shall be

1 included in the department's 2011-2012 standard biennial  
2 budget request.

3

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

8

9

(END)