

SENATE FILE NO. SF0036

Veterans tuition program limits.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military  
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to veterans and higher education;  
2 specifying education that a combat veteran, surviving  
3 spouse or dependent may pursue under the free tuition  
4 program; limiting costs the program covers; reducing the  
5 number of semesters the program covers; specifying  
6 applicability; and providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-14-106(a) by creating a new  
11 paragraph (vi), (b), (d), (f), (j) and (k) is amended to  
12 read:

13

14 **19-14-106. Free tuition for education of war orphans**  
15 **and veterans; definitions.**

1

2 (a) As used in this section:

3

4 (vi) "Successive education" means the pursuit of  
5 a degree or certificate at a higher level than the student  
6 has previously earned using benefits received under this  
7 section.

8

9 (b) The state or any political educational  
10 subdivision shall provide free tuition, ~~matriculation and~~  
11 ~~other fees~~ to all eligible persons who are residents of  
12 this state and who are attending or may attend ~~any state~~  
13 ~~institutions in elementary, secondary and college grades,~~  
14 ~~business colleges, state vocational training schools or~~  
15 ~~other educational institutions of this state~~ the University  
16 of Wyoming or a Wyoming community college for the purpose  
17 of successive education, where courses of instruction are  
18 provided in subjects which would tend to enable the  
19 eligible persons to engage in any useful trade, occupation  
20 or profession. Funds provided under this section shall not  
21 exceed the University of Wyoming current undergraduate rate  
22 per semester, regardless of the education level, degree or  
23 certification a student pursues.

1

2 (d) The community college commission shall reimburse  
3 the University of Wyoming and each community college for  
4 the costs of tuition ~~and fees~~ provided under this section.  
5 If insufficient funds are appropriated, the reimbursement  
6 shall be proportionally reduced based on tuition ~~and fee~~  
7 expenses. The commission shall promulgate rules for the  
8 implementation of the free tuition ~~and fees~~ pursuant to  
9 subsections (f) through (k) of this section, including the  
10 reimbursement to the university and community colleges.

11

12 (f) Any person who is a Vietnam veteran, not  
13 presently receiving education benefits under the  
14 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, an  
15 overseas combat veteran, a combat veteran surviving spouse  
16 or a combat veteran dependent shall receive free tuition  
17 ~~and fees~~ for up to a total of ~~ten (10)~~ eight (8) semesters  
18 of study at the University of Wyoming or any Wyoming  
19 community college. The University of Wyoming and all  
20 Wyoming community colleges shall cooperate to ensure that a  
21 total of not more than ~~ten (10)~~ eight (8) semesters is  
22 provided under this section to any recipient. No person  
23 shall be eligible for the benefits provided under this

1 section for any semester commencing more than eight (8)  
2 academic years after the semester in which the person  
3 initially receives benefits under this section. The  
4 institution in which the student enrolls shall grant  
5 exceptions to the requirements of this subsection for  
6 military service, religious service or other good cause  
7 shown, which exceptions shall be consistent with rules  
8 promulgated by the Wyoming department of education for the  
9 Hathaway scholarship program under W.S. 21-16-1303(d).

10  
11 (j) A person who had qualified for free tuition ~~and~~  
12 ~~fees~~ under subsection (f) or (g) of this section, shall be  
13 deemed eligible for the free tuition ~~and fees~~ at any  
14 Wyoming community college or the University of Wyoming up  
15 to the maximum number of semesters of study allowed under  
16 subsection ~~(a)~~ (f) of this section, if the person transfers  
17 to another institution specified in subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) of  
18 this section.

19  
20 (k) To remain eligible for benefits under this  
21 section, by the end of the spring semester completing the  
22 student's third or fourth semester of attendance, the  
23 student shall have a cumulative grade point average of at

1 least two point zero (2.0) and shall maintain a cumulative  
2 grade point average of at least two point zero (2.0) at the  
3 end of each subsequent spring semester to continue to  
4 receive the free tuition ~~and fees.~~

5  
6 **Section 2.** Notwithstanding W.S. 19-14-106 as amended  
7 by this act, students receiving initial benefits before  
8 July 1, 2018, shall be eligible for free tuition and fees  
9 for up to a total of ten (10) semesters if such benefits  
10 are exercised before August 15, 2020. Students receiving  
11 benefits subject to this section may continue work in the  
12 certificate or degree based program in which they are  
13 currently enrolled regardless of successive education or  
14 University of Wyoming undergraduate rate requirements.

15

16 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2018.

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18

(END)