

SENATE FILE NO. SF0122

Wyoming works program.

Sponsored by: Senate Appropriations Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; establishing the Wyoming works
 2 program at community colleges; providing for grants for
 3 students and funding for community college technical programs
 4 approved to meet labor and economic development needs;
 5 specifying requirements for student grants and for community
 6 college program funding; providing for administration;
 7 requiring reports; providing an appropriation; specifying
 8 funding distributions; and providing for an effective date.

9

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

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-18-401 through 21-18-409 are created
 13 to read:

14

15

ARTICLE 4

16

WYOMING WORKS PROGRAM

1

2 **21-18-401. Wyoming works program created; short title.**

3

4 This article may be cited as the "Wyoming works program".

5

6 **21-18-402. Definitions.**

7

8 (a) As used in this article:

9

10 (i) "Academic term" means the fall semester or
11 term, the spring semester or term, summer school, or other
12 defined period of time within a term or semester in which the
13 approved credential program or course is offered. In this
14 article, "term" and "semester" have the same meaning. If an
15 approved credential program or course encompasses a defined
16 period of less than a full semester or term the beginning of
17 the defined period shall be considered the beginning of the
18 term or semester for that program or course;

19

20 (ii) "College" or "community college" means an
21 institution established under the Wyoming Community College
22 System Code;

23

1 (iii) "Commission" means the Wyoming community
2 college commission;

3

4 (iv) "Consortium" means two (2) or more colleges
5 sharing or jointly delivering credential programs in more
6 than one (1) geographic location, by sharing resources or
7 otherwise collaborating in order to more efficiently provide
8 access to credential programs for students;

9

10 (v) "Cost of attendance" means the sum cost of
11 tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, books and supplies,
12 travel and personal expenses to attend a community college as
13 determined annually by the college in accordance with W.S.
14 21-18-404(b);

15

16 (vi) "Credential" means a license, permit,
17 certificate or other government or industry recognized
18 qualification for working in a trade or occupation in this
19 state, including, but not limited to, drivers of commercial
20 motor vehicles, welders, machine shop operators or other
21 workforce training programs. College academic credit and an
22 applied science degree or certificate may be earned in a

1 credential program, but college academic credit shall not be
2 a requirement for a credential program;

3

4 (vii) "Unmet financial need" means the cost of
5 attendance minus the sum of expected family contribution and
6 all federal, state, local, institutional and privately funded
7 scholarships or grants received by the student, all as
8 determined by the community college. The college shall use
9 the most recent federal free application for federal student
10 aid form to determine expected family contribution and shall
11 do so annually in accordance with W.S. 21-18-404.

12

13 **21-18-403. Wyoming works program created; eligibility**
14 **requirements.**

15

16 (a) There is created the Wyoming works program for
17 Wyoming community college students.

18

19 (b) Under the Wyoming works program, subject to the
20 availability of funds as determined by the legislature, the
21 state may provide grant funds pursuant to this article on
22 behalf of an eligible student who has been accepted by and
23 enrolled in a community college to pursue a credential program

1 approved by the commission for the Wyoming works program, who
2 has demonstrated Wyoming residency as determined by the
3 community college at which the student is enrolled and who is
4 not ineligible under subsection (c) of this section. No
5 college shall require a high school diploma or high school
6 equivalency certificate as a prerequisite for admission to a
7 credential program funded in whole or in part with monies
8 under this article, unless the credential program is included
9 within a college academic credit program requiring the
10 diploma or equivalency certificate and the college provides
11 the student assistance in achieving the diploma or
12 equivalency certificate.

13

14 (c) No student shall be eligible for a grant under this
15 article for more than six (6) academic terms. A student is
16 not eligible for a grant under this article if he:

17

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

22

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

4
5 (iii) Is in default on a federal Title IV
6 education loan. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a student
7 who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this article and
8 has fully repaid a defaulted loan or is no longer in default,
9 from receiving a grant for future academic terms;

10
11 (iv) Owes a refund under a federal Title IV
12 student financial aid program or a subsequently enacted
13 similar federal student financial aid program, or a student
14 financial aid program administered through the state. Nothing
15 in this paragraph prohibits a student who is otherwise
16 eligible for a grant under this article and has fully paid
17 the refund owed, from receiving a grant for future academic
18 terms;

19
20 (v) For continued enrollment in a credential
21 program if he fails to make satisfactory academic progress as
22 required for the credential program by commission rule.

23

1 **21-18-404. Student grants; amounts.**

2

3 There shall be made available student grants under the Wyoming
4 works program. No grant shall exceed two thousand two hundred
5 fifty dollars (\$2,250.00) for attendance in a credential
6 program in any one (1) school year. One-half (1/2) of the
7 annual award shall be provided to the student at each fall
8 and spring academic term of qualification, unless the
9 credential program or course is for a defined period of less
10 than a full semester or the student elects to reserve any
11 portion of the annual award for attendance at a subsequent
12 summer school term. For credential programs of one (1) term
13 or less, cost of attendance and unmet financial need shall be
14 calculated on a projected annual basis, but the annual award
15 amount shall be provided in full in the term of attendance,
16 on a prorated basis.

17

18 **21-18-405. Administration; rules and regulations.**

19

20 (a) Distribution of funds for student grants shall be
21 administered by the commission in accordance with the
22 following:

23

1 (i) Distributions shall be made from funds
2 available in the Wyoming works program account;

3
4 (ii) Student grants shall be limited to students
5 enrolled in an approved credential program;

6
7 (iii) Colleges shall apply to the commission for
8 grant funds to be expended by the college on eligible students
9 for approved credential programs. The commission shall
10 provide student grant funding to each college based upon the
11 actual or projected enrollment in the approved program and
12 the commission's prioritization of program funding and
13 student grant funding in accordance with this article and
14 rule of the commission. In adopting rules for prioritizing
15 student grant funding, the commission shall prioritize
16 funding based upon enrollment and projected enrollment in an
17 approved program which develops technical skills most in
18 demand in the college's service area or colleges' combined
19 service areas and which are most able to immediately respond
20 to that demand by making grant funds available to students
21 able to acquire the credential needed and who likely would
22 not, without the assistance of the grant funds, enroll in the
23 credential program. The commission shall by rule provide for

1 prioritized funding of programs in accordance with W.S.
2 21-18-407(b);

3

4 (iv) Students shall make application for grants
5 under this article with the community college at the time of
6 applying for admission or in any event prior to the beginning
7 of the applicable credential program at the college. The
8 application shall contain information required by rule of the
9 commission;

10

11 (v) For students transferring from a community
12 college to another community college and making application
13 for continuance of a grant, the college from which the student
14 is transferring shall at the student's request provide a list
15 of all academic terms of attendance in which a Wyoming works
16 grant was received by the student;

17

18 (vi) Each community college receiving an
19 application from a student applying for a Wyoming works grant
20 shall determine the student's eligibility for the grant. Each
21 community college shall certify to the commission not later
22 than thirty (30) days after the academic term or program
23 commences, a list of students enrolled at the college who

1 qualify for a grant under this article, including the maximum
2 amount of each grant. The executive director of the community
3 college commission shall verify within ten (10) days after
4 receiving a list from a community college whether there is
5 any duplication of students on the community college list
6 with previously submitted student grant lists and shall
7 certify to the commission the maximum amount a college would
8 be eligible to receive for student grants under this article
9 for an approved program. The commission shall not be required
10 to provide the total maximum amount of student grant funding
11 to any college for any approved program. Should the amount of
12 student grant funding provided by the commission be less than
13 the total maximum amount for which a college qualifies, the
14 college may allocate student grant funding as it determines
15 best accomplishes the priorities specified in this article;

16

17 (vii) For students attending more than one (1)
18 community college the commission may distribute any student
19 grant funds provided on a proportionate basis as determined
20 by rule of the commission;

21

22 (viii) Following each spring semester, each
23 college shall refund to the commission the difference, if

1 any, between the amounts distributed to colleges for student
2 grants under this section for the spring term and the previous
3 fall and summer terms and the amount actually expended by
4 colleges on those student grants. Colleges shall refund the
5 difference not later than August 1. The commission shall
6 deposit all payments under this paragraph to the Wyoming works
7 program account.

8

9 (b) The commission, in consultation with each community
10 college, shall by rule designate a date or dates for each
11 academic year upon which each college shall make the final
12 computation for unmet need for students eligible to receive
13 a grant under this section, consistent with each college's
14 schedule for determining actual cost of attendance for
15 students at that college.

16

17 (c) The commission shall, in consultation with
18 community college admissions officers and financial aid
19 officers, promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
20 implement student grant provisions under this article,
21 including:

22

1 (i) A means for informing potential students of
2 the availability of the grants under this article;

3
4 (ii) Applications, forms, financial and program
5 audit procedures, eligibility and other matters related to
6 efficient operation;

7
8 (iii) Any other rules and regulations necessary
9 for the implementation and administration of student grants
10 under this article.

11
12 (d) The commission may conduct an audit of any college
13 participating in the student grant program under this article
14 to determine compliance with any student grant provision of
15 this article.

16
17 **21-18-406. Student grant limitations.**

18
19 To the extent a student grant under this article would, when
20 combined with any grant or scholarship from a student
21 financial aid program administered through the state or any
22 state institution, in any academic term exceed the cost of
23 attendance at the community college, the grant under this

1 article shall be reduced by the amount necessary to not exceed
2 the cost of attendance. The commission shall by rule require
3 that student grant funds under this article shall be provided
4 for unmet financial need and only after all other public or
5 private grants, scholarship or other financial aid available
6 for the student's enrollment in the credential program have
7 been applied.

8

9 **21-18-407. College program grant funds; distribution by**
10 **community college commission.**

11

12 (a) From monies within the Wyoming works program
13 account the commission shall distribute to colleges funds for
14 instructor positions, recruitment and marketing materials and
15 to acquire instructional and resource materials, classroom
16 equipment and other resources necessary to support the
17 Wyoming works program. The community colleges may collaborate
18 on the use of funds received from the Wyoming works program
19 account, including entering into consortium agreements for
20 operation of credential programs.

21

22 (b) Funds distributed under this section shall be
23 subject to the following:

1

2 (i) The funds shall be designated as Wyoming works
3 program funding, accounted for separately from funding
4 provided under the allocation model under W.S. 21-18-205(c)
5 and special purpose funding under W.S. 21-18-205(e) and shall
6 not be transferred to or expended for any other purpose;

7

8 (ii) The funds shall be expended only for
9 credential programs approved by the commission. The
10 commission shall develop by rule criteria under which to
11 approve credential programs and to determine the amount of
12 funding provided. The criteria for funding amounts shall
13 include, at a minimum, the need for the program in the
14 community, the region's workforce needs and the contribution
15 of the program to the state's overall economic development.
16 Priority shall be given to programs developed and delivered
17 through consortiums and partnerships of colleges, to those
18 programs most able to respond to industry training needs in
19 the community and region and to programs with private funds
20 made available to support the program. Colleges shall make
21 application for funding of credential programs to the
22 commission at times determined by rule of the commission;

23

1 (iii) Any amount of funding distributed under this
2 section which remains unexpended or unencumbered at the end
3 of the biennial budget period for which it was distributed
4 shall revert to the Wyoming works program account.

5

6 **21-18-408. Account created.**

7

8 The Wyoming works program account is created. The account
9 shall consist of funds appropriated by the legislature, gifts
10 and grants accepted by the state and such other funds as
11 directed by law. Monies within the account are continuously
12 appropriated to the commission for distribution to colleges
13 as provided in this article. Interest and other earnings on
14 funds within the account shall be credited to the account.
15 Unexpended and unencumbered monies within the account at the
16 end of each fiscal year shall not lapse but shall remain in
17 the account.

18

19 **21-18-409. Legislative oversight and authority;**
20 **reporting.**

21

22 (a) Nothing in this article shall be construed to
23 constitute an entitlement to a grant established and funded

1 by the legislature. Wyoming works grants shall be subject to
2 legislative appropriation and the legislature reserves the
3 right to modify or terminate the program established under
4 this article at any time.

5
6 (b) The Wyoming community college commission shall
7 report to the legislature by October 1 of each year the
8 colleges, programs, industries and total number of students
9 served by the Wyoming works program in the preceding school
10 year. The report shall specify the funding provided to each
11 college from the Wyoming works program account. The
12 commission may require information from each college as
13 necessary to provide the report required by this section.

14

15 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-18-102(a)(xxiii) and 21-18-205 by
16 creating a new subsection (h) are amended to read:

17

18 **21-18-102. Definitions.**

19

20 (a) As used in this act:

21

22 (xxiii) "This act" means W.S. 21-18-101 through
23 ~~21-18-319~~ 21-18-409.

1

2 **21-18-205. Appropriation and distribution of state**
3 **funds; restrictions; budget authority.**

4

5 (h) The commission may request funding for and shall
6 distribute funds to colleges as provided in the Wyoming works
7 program. Funds requested for the Wyoming works program shall
8 be requested by an exception budget and designated as separate
9 special funding for the Wyoming works program only. Funds
10 distributed pursuant to the Wyoming works program shall be
11 accounted for and distributed separately from the funding
12 allocation model under subsection (c) of this section and
13 from special funding distributed pursuant to subsection (e)
14 of this section.

15

16 **Section 3.**

17

18 (a) There is appropriated ten million dollars
19 (\$10,000,000.00) from the general fund to the Wyoming works
20 program account. This appropriation shall only be expended
21 as provided by the Wyoming works program and this act.
22 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, these

1 appropriations shall not be transferred or expended for any
2 other purpose.

3

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

7

8

(END)