

SENATE FILE NO. SF0022

Nursing education.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to nursing education programs; establishing
2 a Wyoming investment in nursing program as specified;
3 specifying eligibility criteria; providing procedures for
4 application, administration and repayment of loans under
5 the Wyoming investment in nursing program as specified;
6 providing for appeals; requiring the commission to
7 coordinate internet or similar proprietary or common
8 carrier electronic system courses to meet prerequisites for
9 entry into nursing programs as specified; specifying
10 conditions under which the Wyoming community college
11 commission shall fund additional teaching positions in
12 nursing education programs; providing for a sunset date;
13 providing appropriations; and providing for an effective
14 date.

15

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

1

2 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-123 is created to read:

3

4 **9-2-123. Wyoming investment in nursing loan and grant**
5 **program; eligibility criteria; procedures.**

6

7 (a) There is created the Wyoming investment in
8 nursing program administered by the Wyoming higher
9 education assistance authority created under W.S.
10 21-16-703. The program shall be known as the WYIN program.
11 Applicants shall be residents of this state or graduates of
12 a Wyoming high school and may apply for loans from the WYIN
13 program in accordance with this section.

14

15 (b) To qualify for a loan under the WYIN program, the
16 applicant shall first:

17

18 (i) Be accepted into a nursing education program
19 at a Wyoming community college, the University of Wyoming,
20 or, in the case of a candidate for a doctoral degree, an
21 institution providing the required nursing education
22 courses under contract with the western interstate
23 commission for higher education or in a distance nursing

1 education program at a university that is regionally
2 accredited; and

3

4 (ii) Apply for federal financial
5 assistance. Wyoming community colleges shall allow
6 students who apply for admission into an approved nurse
7 aide training or nursing education program, and who will
8 enroll in fewer than six (6) academic credit hours, to
9 apply for federal financial assistance.

10

11 (c) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated
12 for this program, loans under the WYIN program may be
13 granted to applicants enrolled or planning to enroll in
14 nursing education programs as follows:

15

16 (i) An applicant who is accepted into a Wyoming
17 licensed practical nurse or registered nursing education
18 program may be eligible for a loan to pay the unmet need,
19 as determined by the Wyoming higher education assistance
20 authority or its designee, of attendance at the licensed
21 practical nursing education program or the registered
22 nursing education program leading to an associate's or
23 baccalaureate degree;

24

1 (ii) A registered nurse with a baccalaureate
2 degree who holds an unencumbered license with the Wyoming
3 board of nursing, has the equivalent of at least one (1)
4 year of full-time service teaching in a nursing education
5 program in Wyoming as a registered nurse with a
6 baccalaureate degree and is accepted into a nursing
7 education program at the University of Wyoming leading to a
8 master's degree in nursing or nursing education may be
9 eligible for a loan to pay the unmet need of attendance, as
10 determined by the Wyoming higher education assistance
11 authority or its designee, provided that in order to
12 receive a loan for a master's degree program, the applicant
13 shall agree to repay the loan by teaching at a Wyoming
14 college or the University of Wyoming;

15

16 (iii) A registered nurse with a master's degree
17 in nursing who holds an unencumbered license with the
18 Wyoming board of nursing, has the equivalent of at least
19 one (1) year of full-time service teaching in a nursing
20 education program in Wyoming as a registered nurse with a
21 master's degree in nursing and is accepted into a nursing
22 education program at an institution providing the required
23 nursing education courses under contract with the western
24 interstate commission for higher education or in a distance

1 nursing education program at a university that is
2 regionally accredited leading to a doctorate level degree
3 in nursing may be eligible for a loan to pay the unmet need
4 of attendance, as determined by the Wyoming higher
5 education assistance authority or its designee, provided
6 that in order to receive a loan for a doctorate level
7 degree program, the applicant shall agree to repay the loan
8 by teaching at the University of Wyoming.

9

10 (d) A loan provided under this section shall not
11 exceed the cost of attendance for the approved program,
12 reduced by the amount of any Pell or other federal grant
13 received by the applicant.

14

15 (e) A recipient of a WYIN loan under this section may
16 repay the loan without cash payment by working in Wyoming
17 as a nurse or nurse educator as provided in subsection (f)
18 of this section. To qualify as repayment under this
19 subsection, work shall be performed within the following
20 time periods which begin with the calendar month following
21 the month in which the student completed the academic
22 program:

23

1 (i) If the loan can be repaid with work of two
2 (2) years or less, within three (3) years;

3

4 (ii) If the loan can be repaid with work of
5 greater than two (2) years, but no more than four (4)
6 years, within five (5) years;

7

8 (iii) If the loan can be repaid with work of
9 greater than four (4) years, within the amount of time the
10 loan could be repaid, plus two (2) years.

11

12 (f) Qualified work under subsection (e) of this
13 section shall be credited so that the student's loan
14 balance is reduced on the basis of one (1) year of full-
15 time employment repaying the loan balance for one (1)
16 academic year of full-time enrollment. Qualified work shall
17 be credited on a proportional basis.

18

19 (g) Any recipient of a WYIN loan who fails:

20

21 (i) To complete the academic program for which
22 the loan was provided shall commence cash repayment of the
23 loan no later than forty-five (45) days after the recipient
24 leaves the academic program;

1

2 (ii) To obtain employment in the targeted
3 occupation for which the person received the education
4 within ninety (90) days after successfully passing the
5 appropriate certification or licensure examination shall
6 commence cash repayment of the loan within one hundred
7 twenty (120) days after successfully passing the
8 appropriate certification or licensure examination;

9

10 (iii) The appropriate certification or licensure
11 examination on the first attempt may retake the examination
12 at the next available opportunity before commencing
13 repayment of the loan. The recipient shall notify the
14 Wyoming higher education assistance authority or its
15 contractor of the intent to retake the examination and the
16 date the examination will be taken. Any recipient of a WYIN
17 loan who fails the examination after the second attempt
18 shall commence cash repayment of the loan within forty-five
19 (45) days after receipt of notification of the second
20 failure by the board of nursing. If the recipient of a WYIN
21 loan who fails the examination on the first attempt does
22 not retake the examination at the next available
23 opportunity, cash repayment shall commence within forty-

1 five (45) days after the next available examination is
2 conducted.

3

4 (h) Loan repayment options under this section may be
5 deferred for a period not to exceed four (4) years while a
6 loan recipient is serving on full-time active duty with any
7 branch of the military services of the United States.

8

9 (j) The Wyoming higher education assistance authority
10 shall have the powers and duties specified in W.S.
11 21-16-705 to implement this section and shall establish
12 terms and conditions of loans issued under this section,
13 including:

14

15 (i) Interest rates and loan terms;

16

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

19

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

24

1 (k) Funding of the loan program established under
2 this section shall be by appropriation of the legislature.
3 The authority shall transfer approved loan amounts to the
4 University of Wyoming and to Wyoming community colleges at
5 which loan recipients are enrolled. In consultation with
6 the university and affected community colleges, the
7 authority shall establish procedures for transferring loan
8 amounts and for reporting requirements on the expenditure
9 of transferred loan amounts.

10

11 (m) Cash repayment of loans and interest thereon
12 shall be credited to the general fund.

13

14 (n) The authority shall annually review the loan
15 program established under this section and report to the
16 governor and the legislature in accordance with W.S.
17 9-2-1014, regarding program results, funds received and
18 loans issued during the preceding academic year, together
19 with the status of all outstanding loan commitments and
20 repayments under the program.

21

22 (o) This program created by this section shall expire
23 effective June 30, 2011.

24

1 (p) Notwithstanding subsection (o) of this section:

2

3 (i) Any person beginning a nursing education
4 program as authorized by this section shall continue to
5 receive funding for the program so long as the person
6 remains eligible as required by this section;

7

8 (ii) Repayment of loans provided under this
9 section shall continue as specified in this section until
10 all loan obligations have been satisfied.

11

12 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-18-202(b) by creating a new
13 paragraph (v), (c) by creating a new paragraph (vii) and
14 21-18-317 are amended to read:

15

16 **21-18-202. Powers and duties of the commission.**

17

18 (b) The commission shall perform the following
19 coordination functions. In performing these coordination
20 functions all affected colleges and the commission shall be
21 involved:

22

23 (v) Coordinate the provision by means of
24 electronic internet or similar proprietary or common

1 carrier electronic system technology, by a community
2 college or several community colleges, of all prerequisite
3 courses necessary for entry into an educational program in
4 the field of nursing at a community college or a
5 baccalaureate degree program in nursing at the University
6 of Wyoming.

7
8 (c) The commission shall perform the following
9 administrative functions:

10
11 (vii) Subject to appropriation by the
12 legislature, the commission shall fully fund an entry level
13 teaching faculty position whenever a community college
14 commits to expanding its college-funded nursing program
15 capacity by eight (8) students. A community college shall
16 be eligible to apply for the funding under this paragraph
17 only if enrollment in the nursing program of the applicant
18 institution was not less than ninety-five percent (95%) of
19 the total college-funded nursing program capacity at the
20 beginning of the most recent fall academic semester.
21 Funding provided under this paragraph for the specific
22 purpose of expanding a nursing program capacity shall be
23 reduced by an amount equal to that provided to fund one (1)
24 entry level teaching position for every reduction of eight

1 (8) full-time equivalent students in the college-funded
2 nursing program, as determined by comparing the beginning
3 enrollments of the two (2) most recent fall academic
4 semesters. Funding reductions shall not exceed the total
5 amount of funding provided to a community college under
6 this paragraph. Any appropriation made for purposes of this
7 paragraph shall, in accordance with W.S. 21-18-205(e), be
8 accounted for and distributed separately from the funding
9 allocation model for community colleges.

10
11 **21-18-317. Authority to provide educational program;**
12 **scope and approval of program.**

13
14 The community college district board of any community
15 college in this state may provide ~~the~~an educational
16 program ~~education~~ in the field of nursing. The educational
17 program shall be of ~~such~~the duration and intensity as may
18 be deemed appropriate by the community college district
19 board and the Wyoming state board of nursing and shall lead
20 to an associate degree in nursing and prepare each student
21 for licensure as provided by law. Approval of the Wyoming
22 state board of nursing is required prior to the
23 establishment of ~~any such~~the nursing education.

24

1 **Section 3.**

2

3 (a) There is appropriated five hundred thousand
4 dollars (\$500,000.00) to the Wyoming higher education
5 assistance authority from the general fund for the fiscal
6 year beginning July 1, 2003, to implement the provisions of
7 W.S. 9-2-123. Any funds appropriated under this subsection
8 that are not expended, encumbered or obligated at the end
9 of the biennium shall not revert to the general fund as
10 provided by W.S. 9-4-207.

11

12 (b) There is appropriated from the general fund to
13 the Wyoming community college commission seven hundred
14 thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$737,000.00) for the fiscal
15 year beginning July 1, 2003 to implement the purposes of
16 W.S. 21-18-202(c)(vii) and (viii).

17

18 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2003.

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(END)