

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0282

Student tuition assistance.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Diercks, Esquibel, Hammons, Hinckley, Iekel, Lockhart, Martin, Miller, Pedersen, Reese, Walsh and Wasserburger and Senator(s) Burns, Coe, Hawks, Northrup, Peck, Ross and Von Flatern

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the Wyoming student tuition scholarship  
2 program at Wyoming community colleges; establishing the  
3 program; specifying eligibility criteria, conditions and  
4 limitations; providing for administration by the Wyoming  
5 community college commission subject to funds made  
6 available by legislative appropriation; specifying  
7 legislative intent; imposing duties; imposing reporting  
8 requirements; providing appropriations; and providing for  
9 an effective date.

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

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13 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-18-401 through 21-18-403 are  
14 created to read:

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ARTICLE 4

WYOMING STUDENT TUITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**21-18-401. Wyoming tuition scholarship program; eligibility criteria specified; cumulative grade point average; limitations.**

(a) Each Wyoming community college shall award a tuition scholarship to any person who enrolls in a community college as a freshman and who qualifies for admission as a Wyoming resident student for tuition assessment purposes in accordance with the residency policy of the college, as established under rules and regulations of the Wyoming community college commission under W.S. 21-18-202(a)(iii). Tuition scholarships for enrollment at Wyoming community colleges shall be awarded as two (2) year scholarships. Scholarship recipients shall:

(i) Be admitted, enrolled and classified as an undergraduate student in a defined program of study leading to a degree or certificate at a community college;

1           (ii) Have graduated from a Wyoming high school  
2 by successfully completing four (4) school years of  
3 English, three (3) school years of mathematics, three (3)  
4 school years of science and three (3) school years of  
5 social studies;

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7           (iii) Have demonstrated proficiency in nine (9)  
8 content areas prescribed by the state board of education  
9 for high school graduation;

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11           (iv) Have graduated from a Wyoming high school  
12 with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater on  
13 a 4.0 scale; and

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15           (v) Receive an enhanced ACT composite score of  
16 eighteen (18) or higher.

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18           (b) In addition to subsection (a) of this section, a  
19 scholarship recipient shall receive an amount equal to  
20 mandatory fees as prescribed in the cost of attendance  
21 rules for assistance under Title IV of the Federal Higher  
22 Education Assistance Act, plus a book allowance of two  
23 hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per academic semester.

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1           (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section  
2 and if a parent or legal guardian is serving in active  
3 military duty and is stationed outside of Wyoming as a  
4 result of military service, the program applicant shall  
5 provide evidence that his parent or guardian was a resident  
6 at the time the parent or guardian entered military service  
7 and continues to maintain Wyoming as his state of voter  
8 registration and home of record.

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10           (d) To continue scholarship eligibility, a recipient  
11 student shall maintain:

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13           (i) A cumulative grade point average of at least  
14 2.5 at a Wyoming community college;

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16           (ii) Maintain satisfactory academic progress in  
17 the defined program of study; and

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19           (iii) Maintain a minimum of twelve (12) hours of  
20 enrollment during any academic semester in which the  
21 recipient is receiving the scholarship.

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1           (e) Except as provided under W.S. 21-18-402(c), a  
2 scholarship awarded to a recipient under this article shall  
3 terminate upon:

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5           (i) The conclusion of two (2) consecutive  
6 academic years if the recipient qualifies for a two (2)  
7 year scholarship and remains eligible during this two (2)  
8 year period;

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10           (ii) Any semester following initial receipt of a  
11 scholarship in which the recipient is not enrolled shall be  
12 included in computing the academic year limitations for  
13 that recipient.

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15           (f) Nothing in this article shall be construed to  
16 constitute an entitlement to tuition scholarships  
17 established and funded by the legislature. Program  
18 scholarships shall be subject to legislative appropriation  
19 and the legislature reserves the right to terminate the  
20 program at any time.

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22           **21-18-402. Ineligible recipients; scholarship**  
23 **payments cease; petition for scholarship reinstatement;**  
24 **military service extension.**

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2 (a) Any tuition scholarship recipient who fails to  
3 maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 as  
4 required under this article or who fails to satisfactorily  
5 complete the minimum number of credit hours of enrollment  
6 during any academic semester as required under this article  
7 may petition the community college of enrollment for  
8 reinstatement after the recipient satisfactorily completes  
9 the minimum number of hours of enrollment in a subsequent  
10 academic semester required for that scholarship and  
11 otherwise complies with applicable eligibility requirements  
12 imposed under this article.

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14 (b) The loss of the scholarship award under this  
15 article for one (1) or more semesters does not extend the  
16 academic year limitation imposed under W.S. 21-18-401(e).  
17 Upon request of a scholarship recipient, a community  
18 college may exempt the recipient from this subsection for  
19 good cause.

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21 (c) Upon application by a scholarship recipient, the  
22 academic year limitation prescribed under W.S. 21-18-401(e)  
23 may be extended for a period of up to four (4) years while

1 the recipient is serving on full-time active duty with any  
2 branch of the United States military services.

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4 **21-18-403. Program administration and funding; annual**  
5 **report.**

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7 (a) The student tuition scholarship program  
8 established under this article shall be administered by the  
9 Wyoming community college commission on behalf of community  
10 colleges from funds appropriated by the legislature. The  
11 commission shall establish policy for program  
12 administration including reporting procedures for  
13 scholarship recipients, the maintenance of information on  
14 scholarship candidates and recipients and the accounting of  
15 actual scholarship recipients from amounts appropriated.

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17 (b) The commission shall report annually to the  
18 legislature in accordance with W.S. 9-2-1014 on the tuition  
19 scholarship program established under this article,  
20 specifying funds received and recipients enrolled during  
21 the reportable academic year.

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23 **Section 2.**

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1           (a) Tuition scholarships are to be awarded by Wyoming  
2 community colleges beginning with the 2005 fall academic  
3 semester.

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5           (b) Two million seven hundred fifty-one thousand  
6 three hundred ninety-two dollars (\$2,751,392.00) is  
7 appropriated from the general fund to the Wyoming community  
8 college commission for distribution to each Wyoming  
9 community college for the implementation of this act during  
10 fiscal year 2006.

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12           (c) Amounts appropriated under this section shall be  
13 separately accounted for and not included in the community  
14 college commission's budget for the funding allocation  
15 model.

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

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(END)