

WORKING DRAFT

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

Higher education endowment funds.

Sponsored by: (s) Sdraft

A BILL

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Wyoming
2 Constitution to authorize the establishment of inviolate
3 trust funds for higher education; and authorizing the
4 investment and use of earnings from such funds.

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6 *BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING,*
7 *two-thirds of all the members of the two houses, voting*
8 *separately, concurring therein:*

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10 **Section 1.** The following proposal to amend Wyoming
11 Constitution, Article 15 by creating a new section 20 is
12 proposed for submission to the electors of the State of
13 Wyoming at the next general election for approval or
14 rejection to become valid as a part of the Constitution if
15 ratified by a majority of the electors at the election:

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2 **Article 15, Section 20. Higher education trust funds;**
3 **investments; earnings.**

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5 The legislature may from time to time place monies into
6 endowment funds for higher education scholarships and for
7 improving the quality of higher education, which funds
8 shall remain inviolate. The earnings of the funds shall be
9 used for the purposes specified in this section, but the
10 legislature may from time to time by law regulate the
11 manner in which the earnings are expended. The legislature
12 may also provide for use of the earnings to protect the
13 funds from inflation and to even fluctuations in earnings
14 over time. The funds may be invested in the same manner as
15 other permanent funds of the state.

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17 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State shall endorse
18 the following statement on the proposed amendment:

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20 This amendment authorizes the creation of permanent funds
21 for two purposes: First, higher education scholarships;
22 and second, improving the quality of higher education. The
23 principal in the funds cannot be used. The earnings must
24 be used for the purposes specified and the legislature is

1 authorized to pass laws regulating how the earnings are
2 used. In the 2005 legislative session the legislature
3 created a formula to provide one hundred five million
4 dollars (\$105,000,000.00) for an endowment for excellence
5 in higher education and four hundred million dollars
6 (\$400,000,000.00) for Hathaway higher education
7 scholarships. It is the intention of the legislature to
8 use the earnings of the scholarship endowment to ensure
9 that every Wyoming high school student who performs well
10 has the practical opportunity to go to college. The
11 legislature has also from time to time appropriated funds
12 which become part of endowments if matched by private
13 contributions. This amendment would protect these
14 endowment funds from raids for other purposes. The
15 legislature also believes that allowing the funds to be
16 invested the same way other state permanent funds are
17 invested will improve the earnings available for use.

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(END)