

WORKING DRAFT

SENATE FILE NO. _____

Dental student loan repayment program.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to a dental student loan repayment program;
2 establishing an education loan repayment program for
3 students seeking to pursue a degree in dentistry;
4 specifying requirements; providing for loan forgiveness as
5 specified; requiring reports; providing for a continuous
6 appropriation; providing an appropriation; and providing
7 for an effective date.

8

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

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-17-118 is created to read:

12

13 **21-17-118. Authority to offer course in dentistry**
14 **through contracts with other institutions; contracts with**

1 **students; repayment of funds expended; deposit of**
2 **repayments.**

3

4 (a) In addition to other powers granted to the
5 trustees of the University of Wyoming, the board may offer
6 and provide at other institutions, universities or
7 colleges, a course of training and education in the field
8 of dentistry.

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10 (b) To accomplish the purposes of this section, the
11 board of trustees may enter into contracts with other
12 institutions, universities or colleges outside the state
13 that maintain schools for the training and education of
14 students in dentistry and to expend funds appropriated for
15 this purpose in connection therewith.

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17 (c) Students desiring to avail themselves of the
18 opportunities under this section, before enrolling for such
19 courses and having completed the admissions process into
20 the dental education program at a school of dentistry with
21 which the university has an agreement under subsection (a)
22 of this section, must be approved by the president of the
23 university acting with the advice of the state board of
24 dentistry. No student shall be approved by the president

1 unless the student or the student's father, mother or
2 lawful guardian are residents of Wyoming and have been
3 residents for not less than five (5) years immediately
4 prior thereto.

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6 (d) In addition to the requirements of subsection (c)
7 of this section, before expending any funds the board of
8 trustees shall obtain an agreement from each student
9 whereby the student agrees to:

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11 (i) Authorize the state of Wyoming to pay the
12 costs of education incurred in his dentistry education as
13 determined by any contract between the state of Wyoming and
14 the school of dentistry providing that education; and

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16 (A) Actively engage in professional
17 practice or other professional pursuits in dentistry in
18 Wyoming for such period as the board requires, which period
19 shall not exceed three (3) years; or

20

21 (B) Repay all amounts expended by the state
22 of Wyoming under this paragraph on the student's education,
23 together with interest which shall begin accruing after the
24 student's graduation, but in no event later than five (5)

1 years after the student enters into an agreement, upon
2 terms specified by the board. However, interest shall
3 begin to accrue if the board finds that the student has
4 withdrawn from the school of dentistry or is otherwise not
5 making satisfactory progress toward completion of the
6 degree or program. Money expended under this paragraph
7 shall accrue interest at an annual rate equal to that
8 charged for federal Stafford loans at the time interest
9 begins to accrue, which rate shall be adjusted annually to
10 match the federal Stafford loan rate. In no event shall
11 the interest rate be greater than eight percent (8%).

12

13 (ii) In exchange for a reduction in the time
14 required to practice under subparagraph (i)(A) of this
15 subsection or for other incentives specified in the
16 contract, treat Wyoming patients eligible for services
17 under the Wyoming Medical Assistance and Services Act under
18 terms and conditions specified in the agreement. All
19 contract provisions established under this paragraph shall
20 be developed in consultation with the state board of
21 dentistry and the department of health.

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23 (e) Upon recommendation of the president of the
24 university, the board of trustees may relieve a student of

1 the obligation to repay amounts expended under paragraph
2 (d)(i) of this section, in whole or in part, where
3 repayment would cause undue hardship. The university shall
4 annually report the number of students relieved from
5 repayment under this subsection to the joint labor, health
6 and social services interim committee not later than
7 October 1.

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9 (f) Any amounts paid by dentistry students in
10 accordance with the contractual arrangements authorized
11 under this section shall be deposited into a special
12 account designated the Dentistry School Student Account,
13 maintained and separately accounted for by the University
14 of Wyoming, which account may be added to by specific
15 contributions from other sources. The account may be
16 invested, at the discretion of the president of the
17 University of Wyoming, for the production of income. The
18 investment income shall be expended by the University of
19 Wyoming for assistance and scholarships to dentistry
20 students as authorized by the president of the University
21 of Wyoming and the dean of the college of health sciences.
22 The principal of the fund established shall remain
23 unimpaired and only the income derived therefrom may be
24 collected and expended from year to year. On or before

1 October 1 of each year, the university shall submit a
2 report to the joint labor, health and social services
3 interim committee on income to the fund and expenditures
4 from fund earnings during the prior fiscal year.

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6 **Section 2.** (a) The University of Wyoming shall, in
7 consultation with the Wyoming board of dentistry and
8 Wyoming professional dental organizations, enter into
9 negotiations with schools of dentistry at Creighton
10 University, the University of Nebraska, and if feasible,
11 other schools of dentistry to pay the cost of education for
12 not to exceed a total of ten (10) seats annually in each
13 class year of dental students under the program created by
14 this act. Thus, when all class levels are full, the
15 program would have a maximum of forty (40) students. The
16 University of Wyoming shall pursue establishing the program
17 to the extent feasible for the fall 2007 entering classes.
18 By October 1, 2007, the university shall provide a progress
19 report to the joint labor, health and social services
20 interim committee regarding the implementation of this act.

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22 (b) There is appropriated from the general fund to the
23 University of Wyoming five hundred thousand dollars
24 (\$500,000.00), or as much thereof as is necessary, for the

