

ORIGINAL SENATE  
FILE NO. 0023

ENROLLED ACT NO. 42, SENATE

SIXTIETH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING  
2009 GENERAL SESSION

AN ACT relating to the education loan repayment program; establishing an education loan repayment program for students with baccalaureate degrees who pursue the accelerated program for baccalaureate degrees in nursing; specifying requirements; providing for loan forgiveness as specified; requiring reports; amending a prior appropriation; providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

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

**Section 1.** W.S. 21-17-121 is created to read:

**21-17-121. Accelerated baccalaureate degree in nursing for students with other baccalaureate degrees; contracts with students; repayment of funds expended; deposit of repayments.**

(a) Students desiring to participate in the University of Wyoming's accelerated program leading to a baccalaureate degree in nursing may avail themselves of the financial aid opportunities under this section subject to the following:

(i) Before enrolling in the accelerated baccalaureate in nursing degree program, the student shall be approved by the president of the university acting with the advice of the state board of nursing;

(ii) No student shall be approved by the president unless the student has obtained a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than nursing;

(iii) Preference for financial aid under this section shall be given to applicants who individually or

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through their spouse meet the requirements of W.S. 21-17-105(d).

(b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a), before granting any financial aid under this section the board of trustees shall obtain an agreement from each student whereby the student authorizes the state of Wyoming to pay not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for financial aid while the student is enrolled in the accelerated nursing degree program. The student shall agree either to:

(i) Actively engage in work as a nurse in Wyoming for two (2) years, as the board of trustees requires. Qualified work shall be granted on a proportional basis; or

(ii) Repay all amounts expended by the state of Wyoming under this subsection on the student's education, together with interest which shall begin accruing upon the student's graduation, upon terms specified by the board of trustees. However, interest shall begin to accrue if the board finds that the student has withdrawn from the degree program or is otherwise not making satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree program. Money expended under this subsection shall accrue at an annual interest rate equal to that charged for federal Stafford loans at the time interest begins to accrue, which rate shall be adjusted annually to match the federal Stafford loan rate. In no event shall the interest rate be greater than eight percent (8%).

(c) Upon recommendation of the president of the university, the board of trustees may relieve a student of the obligation to repay amounts expended under subsection (b) of this section, in whole or in part, upon a finding

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that the monies cannot be collected. The university shall annually report the number of students relieved from repayment under this subsection to the joint labor, health and social services interim committee not later than October 1.

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

(e) Any recipient of a loan under this section who fails:

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

(ii) To obtain employment in the targeted occupation for which the person received the education within ninety (90) days after successfully obtaining the appropriate licensure, shall commence cash repayment of the loan within one hundred twenty (120) days after successfully obtaining the appropriate licensure; or

(iii) To obtain the appropriate certification within one hundred eighty (180) days after completion of the program shall commence cash repayment of the loan.

(f) Any amounts paid by students in accordance with the contractual arrangements authorized under this section shall be deposited into a special account designated as the accelerated baccalaureate degree in nursing student account, maintained and separately accounted for by the University of Wyoming, which account shall be used solely

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for payments on behalf of students under subsection (b) of this section. On or before October 1 of each year, the university shall submit a report to the joint labor, health and social services interim committee on expenditures from the account during the prior fiscal year.

**Section 2.** There is appropriated to the University of Wyoming two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) from the general fund appropriations made to the Wyoming investment in nursing program pursuant to 2008 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 48, Section 057. This appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2010. This appropriation shall only be expended for the purpose of providing loans to not more than six (6) students in each class cohort pursuant to W.S. 21-17-121 created by this act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2012. This appropriation shall be included in the university's 2011-2012, 167 medical education budget request and not in the block grant. Any amounts appropriated to the University of Wyoming pursuant to this act shall not be included in the community college commission's 2011-2012 standard biennial budget request.

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

(END)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

TIME APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk