

SENATE FILE NO. SF0121

Career and technical training grants.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hastert, Craft, Rothfuss and Von Flatern and Representative(s) Byrd, Freeman, Krone, Throne and Wilson

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to labor and employment; establishing a
2 career and technical training scholarship program in the
3 department of workforce services; providing definitions;
4 providing for grant criteria as specified; establishing the
5 career and technical training grants account; requiring
6 rulemaking; providing appropriations; and providing for an
7 effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 27-15-101 through 27-15-106 are
12 created to read:

13

14

CHAPTER 15

15

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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ARTICLE 1

CAREER AND TECHNICAL TRAINING GRANTS

27-15-101. Definitions.

(a) As used in this article:

(i) "Account" means the career and technical training grants account created by W.S. 27-15-103(a);

(ii) "Approved career and technical training provider" means a Wyoming community college providing career and technical training in Wyoming;

(iii) "Career and technical training" means training through an approved training career and technical training provider that develops or enhances the skills of an individual for specific careers that are based on the workforce needs of the state as identified by the department;

1 (iv) "Department" means the department of
2 workforce services.

3

4 **27-15-102. Career and technical training grants**
5 **established.**

6

7 (a) The department shall, by rule and regulation,
8 establish and administer a program to provide training
9 grants from funds in the account established by W.S.
10 27-15-103(a) for the training of persons participating in a
11 career and technical training program.

12

13 (b) The purpose of the career and technical training
14 grant program is to provide career and technical training
15 grants to develop or enhance the skills of Wyoming's
16 workforce based on current, projected or emerging labor
17 shortages in the Wyoming economy.

18

19 (c) The department is authorized to promulgate rules
20 and regulations for the purpose of implementing this
21 article. All rules and regulations shall be promulgated in
22 consultation with training providers and employers. No

1 grants shall be awarded under this article until adoption
2 of final rules pursuant to this subsection.

3

4 (d) The following shall not be reimbursed under this
5 article:

6

7 (i) Services eligible to be paid for by another
8 public or private program;

9

10 (ii) Services historically paid for by another
11 program or from another source;

12

13 (iii) Continuing education training in an
14 applicant's current trade.

15

16 **27-15-103. Career and technical training grants;
17 account established; limitations on grants.**

18

19 (a) The career and technical training grants account
20 is created. The account shall consist of those funds
21 appropriated to the account by the legislature and all
22 monies received from federal grants and other
23 contributions, grants, gifts, transfers, bequests and

1 donations to the account. The account is specifically
2 empowered to accept grants, gifts, transfers, bequests and
3 donations from public or private sources. Funds in the
4 account are continuously appropriated to the department for
5 the purpose of providing grants as provided in this
6 article.

7

8 (b) Funds shall be accumulated in the account and no
9 grants awarded until the balance in the account reaches two
10 million dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

11

12 **27-15-104. Career and technical training grants;**
13 **eligibility.**

14

15 (a) Under the career and technical training grant
16 program, subject to availability of funds as determined by
17 the legislature, the state shall provide a grant pursuant
18 to this article to any trainee who has been accepted by and
19 enrolls in an approved training program, and who meets the
20 following qualifications:

21

1 (i) The trainee has demonstrated twelve (12)
2 months residence in Wyoming as defined in W.S.
3 22-1-102(a) (xxx);

4

5 (ii) The trainee has:

6

7 (A) Graduated from high school or has
8 obtained a general equivalency diploma in accordance with
9 rules adopted by the department of education pursuant to
10 W.S. 21-16-1308(b) (iv); and

11

12 (B) Has the baseline prerequisites, ability
13 and skills necessary to meet business and industry demand
14 as preapproved by the department under this article for the
15 type of training to be undertaken. The department shall
16 provide by rule and regulation for appropriate criteria to
17 implement this subparagraph.

18

19 (b) No trainee shall be eligible for a grant under
20 this article for more than the equivalent of two (2) years.
21 No trainee shall be eligible for a grant under this article
22 for any period commencing after four (4) calendar years
23 following the trainee's initial eligibility. For purposes

1 of this subsection, a trainee's initial eligibility shall
2 be deemed to commence on the program start date identified
3 on the application or the date the program actually begins,
4 whichever is earlier. The department shall by rule and
5 regulation establish exceptions to this subsection for
6 military service, religious service and other good cause
7 shown.

8

9 (c) A trainee is not eligible for a grant under this
10 article if the trainee:

11

12 (i) Is not a United States citizen or a
13 permanent resident alien who meets the definition of an
14 eligible noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements or
15 requirements of a subsequent similar federal enactment;

16

17 (ii) Has not complied with United States
18 selective service system requirements for registration, if
19 the requirements are applicable to the trainee;

20

21 (iii) Is in default on a federal Title IV
22 education loan. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a
23 trainee who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this

1 article and has fully repaid a defaulted loan, or is no
2 longer in default, from receiving a grant after the default
3 is cured;

4

5 (iv) Owes a refund under a federal Title IV
6 trainee financial aid program or a subsequently enacted
7 similar federal student financial aid program, or a student
8 financial aid program administered through the state.
9 Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a trainee who is
10 otherwise eligible for a grant under this article and has
11 fully paid the refund owed, from receiving a grant after
12 paying the refund owed;

13

14 (v) Is incarcerated;

15

16 (vi) Is not eligible to hold a license or is
17 otherwise disqualified to be employed in the occupation for
18 which the training is sought;

19

20 (vii) Has been the recipient of more than two
21 (2) semesters of any Hathaway scholarship under W.S.
22 21-16-1301 through 21-16-1310 during the five (5) year
23 period before the date of application; or

1

2 (viii) Does not otherwise qualify under this
3 article for a grant.

4

5 (d) The department shall pay the cost of an eligible
6 applicant's initial readiness testing for the type of
7 training to be undertaken. Any additional testing to
8 improve an applicant's score shall be at the applicant's
9 expense.

10

11 **27-15-105. Career and technical training grants;**
12 **agreement; remedies upon breach; technical assistance.**

13

14 (a) Grant payments shall be made directly to an
15 approved career and technical training provider. Grantees
16 shall enter into a contract with the department providing
17 that the trainee shall work in Wyoming in the trade for
18 which the trainee receives training for the period provided
19 in the department's rules. Commitment duration shall be
20 based on the value of the training opportunity, shall be
21 commensurate with the magnitude of the grant and shall not
22 be less than the length of the grantee's training program
23 or two (2) years, whichever is less. For purposes of this

1 subsection, "in the trade" means that the grantee is
2 employed in Wyoming for at least eighty percent (80%) of
3 the grantee's paid work hours in the trade for which the
4 grant was awarded.

5

6 (b) If a trainee breaches the agreement required by
7 subsection (a) of this section, the trainee shall repay all
8 funds provided on behalf of the trainee under the agreement
9 for the contract period during which the breach occurred,
10 together with costs of collection and attorney fees. The
11 department shall by rule and regulation establish
12 exceptions to this subsection for military service,
13 religious service and other good cause shown.

14

15 (c) The department shall provide technical assistance
16 to prospective trainees in the application and reporting
17 requirements established by department rules.

18

19 **27-15-106. Legislative report.**

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21 The department shall report by June 1, 2016 to the joint
22 education interim committee, the joint labor, health and
23 social services interim committee and the joint

1 appropriations interim committee on the career and
2 technical training grant program, including industry and
3 trainee participation, numbers of persons completing
4 training, numbers of former trainees working in Wyoming,
5 total grant expenditures, per trainee grant expenditures
6 and administrative expenditures.

7

8 **Section 2.**

9

10 (a) There is appropriated fifty thousand dollars
11 (\$50,000.00) from the general fund to the career and
12 technical training grants account. This appropriation
13 shall be for the period beginning with the effective date
14 of this act and ending June 30, 2016. This appropriation
15 shall only be expended for the purpose of the career and
16 technical training grants established under W.S. 27-15-102
17 created by this act, subject to W.S. 27-15-103. Grants
18 shall not exceed one thousand six hundred dollars
19 (\$1,600.00) per year per eligible grantee. Upon the award
20 of a career and technical training grant, the department
21 shall set aside and encumber the full amount and cost of
22 any grant awarded for the entire period of the grant. The
23 department shall establish by rule and regulation when an

1 awarded grant shall terminate. Upon termination of a
2 grant, any unexpended portion of the grant shall be
3 available to fund additional grants as provided under W.S.
4 27-15-102 created by this act. Notwithstanding any other
5 provision of law, this appropriation shall not be
6 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
7 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
8 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
9 2016. Any obligated funds shall revert after June 30, 2016
10 upon the termination of the grant which encumbered those
11 funds.

12

13 (b) There is appropriated fifty thousand dollars
14 (\$50,000.00) from the general fund to the department of
15 workforce services. This appropriation shall be for the
16 period beginning with the effective date of this act and
17 ending June 30, 2016. This appropriation shall only be
18 expended for the purpose of administering the career and
19 technical assistance grant program established by this act,
20 including initial trainee testing and promotional and
21 technical assistance activities for the program.
22 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
23 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any

1 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
2 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
3 by law on June 30, 2016.

4

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

9

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(END)