

WORKING DRAFT

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

School finance-vocational education.

Sponsored by: (s) Hdraft

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school finance; establishing a cost-
 2 based adjustment to the education resource block grant
 3 model for vocational education; providing for grants to
 4 districts to assist with initiating vocational education
 5 programs; defining terms; imposing funding conditions and
 6 criteria; delegating rulemaking authority to and imposing
 7 specified duties upon the state department of education;
 8 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
 9 date.

10

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

12

13 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-12-105 and 21-13-329 are created

14 to read:

15

1 **21-12-105. Career-vocational education program**
2 **grants; application; criteria; limitations.**

3

4 (a) A school district may apply to the state
5 department of education for state assistance to fund
6 expenses associated with the planning, development and
7 implementation of a new career-vocational education program
8 within any high school in the district. As used in this
9 section, "career-vocational education program" shall be as
10 defined by W.S. 21-13-329(a)(ii). Amounts awarded under
11 this section shall be used to fund curricular development
12 and program design costs, employ certified teachers to
13 provide course instruction during the introductory year and
14 to fund initial purchases of equipment and supplies
15 necessary for program delivery. Any amount awarded to a
16 district under this section shall be in addition to and not
17 be considered in determining the vocational education
18 adjustment to the education resource block grant model
19 under W.S. 21-13-329. No grant awarded under this section
20 shall exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for the
21 implementation of any one (1) proposed program and no one
22 (1) district is eligible for a grant within two (2) years
23 after receiving a grant award under this section.

24

1 (b) Application for a grant under this section shall
2 be on a form and in a manner specified by rule and
3 regulation of the state department, shall be filed with the
4 department on or before June 30 to secure a grant during
5 the immediately succeeding school year, and shall at
6 minimum include:

7
8 (i) A proposal documenting the need for
9 introducing the proposed career-vocational education
10 program;

11
12 (ii) Labor market information detailing the need
13 for instruction in the proposed program;

14
15 (iii) The purposes and plan for expenditure of
16 grant amounts;

17
18 (iv) An outline of the course curriculum for the
19 proposed program; and

20
21 (v) Other necessary information required by the
22 state department.

23

1 (c) Not later than August 15 of the applicable school
2 year and following review of applications submitted under
3 this section, the department shall notify the applicant
4 districts of its decision and shall provide each applicant
5 district a written statement of reasons for approving or
6 denying the application. The department shall consider the
7 termination of any career-vocational education program by
8 the district prior to the application filing date in
9 determining and establishing an amount for any grant award
10 to the applicant district under this section. If the
11 application is approved, the department shall award the
12 grant from amounts made available by legislative
13 appropriation within the school foundation program account
14 for purposes of this section.

15

16 (d) Each recipient district shall report to the state
17 department on the expenditure of amounts awarded under this
18 section and shall provide other information as required by
19 rule and regulation of the state department to implement
20 this section.

21

22 (e) The department shall promulgate rules and
23 regulations necessary to carry out this section.

24

1 **21-13-329. Vocational education; qualification and**
2 **limitations on funding eligibility; adjustment to**
3 **foundation program formula.**

4
5 (a) As used in this section:

6
7 (i) "Vocational course" means instruction in
8 career-vocational education programs offered in grades nine
9 (9) through twelve (12) by districts pursuant to W.S.
10 21-9-101(b)(i)(J) that is aligned with state content and
11 performance standards prescribed by the state board of
12 education under W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iii), and is provided by a
13 teacher certified by the Wyoming professional teaching
14 standards board for the vocational subject area associated
15 with the course;

16
17 (ii) "Career-vocational education program" means
18 a program offered in grades nine (9) through twelve (12)
19 consisting of a sequence of three (3) or more vocational
20 courses in an occupational area or career cluster that
21 provides the student with the technical knowledge, skills
22 or proficiencies necessary to obtain employment in current
23 or emerging occupations or to pursue advanced skill
24 training;

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(iii) "Vocational education student" means a student enrolled in grade nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11) or twelve (12) and participating in career-vocational education programs on a full time equivalency (FTE) basis, as computed in accordance with guidelines established by the state department of education;

(iv) "Vocational education teacher" means a teacher certified by the Wyoming professional teaching standards board to provide instruction at the high school level for vocational education courses comprising career-vocational education programs and is employed by a Wyoming school district for high school career-vocational education program instruction on a full time equivalency basis (FTE) as computed in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the state department of education. Nothing in this paragraph shall require a district to employ teachers certified for high school vocational education instruction on a full time basis or to require teachers to teach only high school vocational education courses on a full time basis.

1 (b) The adjustment for vocational education pursuant
2 to W.S. 21-13-309(n)(xii) shall be computed as prescribed
3 by this section.

4
5 (c) The prototypical school model amount for grades
6 nine (9) through twelve (12) computed under W.S.
7 21-13-309(m)(ii)(C) shall be reduced for each district by
8 the following amounts:

9
10 (i) The vocational education amount within the
11 teacher salaries and benefits component, as recalibrated
12 for the 2001-2002 school year; and

13
14 (ii) The vocational education amount within the
15 equipment and supplies component, as recalibrated for the
16 2001-2002 school year.

17
18 (d) An amount shall be computed for each high school
19 within each school district in accordance with the
20 following:

21
22 (i) Any high school in the school district that
23 is located within a five (5) mile radius of another high
24 school in that district shall for purposes of computations

1 under this subsection, be combined and considered as one
2 (1) high school;

3

4 (ii) A weight factor of one and twenty-nine
5 hundredths (1.29) shall be multiplied by each full time
6 equivalent (FTE) vocational education student for that
7 school for the immediately preceding school year, as
8 computed in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the
9 state department;

10

11 (iii) The amount computed under paragraph
12 (d)(ii) of this section shall be multiplied by the
13 vocational education amount contained within the teacher
14 salaries and benefits component of the prototypical school
15 model for grades nine (9) through twelve (12), as specified
16 under W.S. 21-13-309(m)(ii)(C);

17

18 (iv) In addition to the amount computed under
19 paragraph (d)(iii) of this section for a school, the number
20 of full time equivalent (FTE) vocational education teachers
21 computed for that school for the immediately preceding
22 school year, as computed pursuant to guidelines prescribed
23 by the state department, shall be multiplied by the
24 vocational education amount contained within the equipment

1 and supplies component of the prototypical school model for
2 grades nine (9) through twelve (12), as prescribed by W.S.
3 21-13-309(m) (ii) (C);

4
5 (v) In addition to the amount computed under
6 paragraph (d) (iv) of this section for vocational education
7 equipment and supplies, an amount shall be computed for
8 that school for vocation education equipment replacement
9 and enhancement by multiplying the number of full time
10 equivalent (FTE) teachers computed for that school for the
11 preceding school year under guidelines prescribed by the
12 state department, by an amount within the education
13 resource block grant model which is based upon an
14 adjustment factor for vocational education equipment
15 replacement and enhancement;

16
17 (vi) Notwithstanding paragraphs (d) (iii) and
18 (iv) of this section, the one and twenty-nine hundredths
19 (1.29) weight factor specified under paragraph (d) (ii) of
20 this section and the number computed for full time
21 equivalent (FTE) vocational education teachers under
22 paragraph (d) (iv) of this section for any school shall be
23 increased to the level specified by the education resource
24 block grant model to fund the additional costs necessary to

1 provide a minimum program quality standard of two (2)
2 career-vocational education programs within that school.
3 The minimum program quality standard of two (2) shall be
4 applied to each school to the extent prior student
5 participation rates in career-vocational education programs
6 and vocational education equipment and supply amounts
7 provided that school support the two (2) program minimum
8 standard.

9
10 (e) The amount computed for each high school within
11 each school district for the vocational education
12 adjustment under paragraphs (d)(iii) and (iv) or (vi) of
13 this section, as applicable, and the amount computed under
14 paragraph (d)(v) of this section, shall be added for that
15 district and divided by the district's total average daily
16 membership (ADM) for the applicable school year as computed
17 under W.S. 21-13-309(q).

18
19 (f) Upon written application filed by a school
20 district, the department of education may exempt a
21 vocational course from the certified teacher requirements
22 imposed under paragraph (a)(i) of this section, or a
23 career-vocational education program from the sequential
24 course or cluster course requirements imposed under

1 paragraph (a)(ii) of this section, if the district verifies
2 the alignment of the proposed course or program with the
3 state content and performance standards for career-
4 vocational education programs, documents the additional
5 costs associated with the proposed course or program
6 including class size and specialized equipment needs and if
7 applicable, clearly states the experiences and education of
8 the noncertified teacher that would otherwise qualify the
9 teacher to instruct the proposed course. Application shall
10 be in a manner and form and subject to a schedule
11 established by rule and regulation of the department. An
12 exemption granted under this subsection shall allow
13 students participating in the course or program to be
14 included in the full time equivalency (FTE) computations
15 under this section.

16
17 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-13-309(n) by creating a new
18 paragraph (xii) is amended to read:

19
20 **21-13-309. Determination of amount to be included in**
21 **foundation program for each district.**

22
23 (n) For each district, the district total amount per
24 ADM computed under subsection (m) of this section shall be

1 adjusted as follows to result in a revised amount per ADM
2 for each district. Unless otherwise specified in this
3 subsection, the adjustments under this subsection shall be
4 determined as specified in the education resource block
5 grant model:

6
7 (xii) The amount shall be adjusted for
8 vocational education students in each district as provided
9 by W.S. 21-13-329.

10
11 **Section 3.**

12
13 (a) Notwithstanding W.S. 21-13-329(d)(iii) and (vi)
14 or (vi) as created under section 1 of this act and for
15 school years 2003-2004 through 2007-2008 only, the
16 following computations shall be made for each district:

17
18 (i) The amounts computed for each school within
19 each school district under W.S. 21-13-329(d)(iii) and (iv)
20 or (v) shall be totaled for the applicable school year;

21
22 (ii) The teacher salary and benefits component
23 and the equipment and supply component of the prototypical
24 school model for grades nine (9) through (12) as prescribed

1 under W.S. 21-13-309(m)(ii)(C) and as recalibrated for the
2 2001-2002 school year, adjusted for teacher seniority of
3 the district pursuant to W.S. 21-13-323(b) for the 2001-
4 2002 school year, shall be multiplied by the district's ADM
5 in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) for the 2001-2002
6 school year.

7
8 (b) If for any school year subject to this section,
9 the amount computed under paragraph (a)(ii) of this section
10 is greater than the amount computed under paragraph (a)(i)
11 of this section, the amount computed under paragraph
12 (a)(ii) of this section shall be used in lieu of the amount
13 computed under W.S. 21-13-329(d)(iii) and (iv) or (vi) for
14 purposes of the vocational education adjustment computation
15 under W.S. 21-13-329(e).

16
17 **Section 4.**

18
19 (a) The state department of education, with the
20 assistance of the school finance section of department of
21 audit, shall review the data used in establishing the
22 components of the vocational education adjustment provided
23 by this act and ensure that the data accurately reflects
24 career-vocational education program requirements, student

1 participation levels and other criteria imposed under this
2 act for the proper implementation of the adjustment.

3

4 (b) On or before November 1, 2003, and based upon the
5 review undertaken pursuant to subsection (a) of this
6 section, the state department of education shall report to
7 the joint education interim committee on findings regarding
8 the accuracy of the vocational education data used in
9 developing the vocational education adjustment, and present
10 any recommended modifications to the adjustment based upon
11 its review of the data.

12

13 **Section 5.** Two hundred fifty thousand dollars
14 (\$250,000.00) is appropriated from within the public school
15 foundation program account for distribution by the state
16 department of education to school districts as career-
17 vocational education grants authorized under W.S. 21-12-105
18 as created under section 1 of this act.

19

20 **Section 6.** This act is effective July 1, 2003.

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22

(END)