

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0076

Veteran's tuition waiver.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Walsh, Bucholz, Esquibel, Hammons, Illoway, Semlek, Slater and Thompson and Senator(s) Coe, Jennings, Peck, Scott and Vasey

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to veterans; providing for free tuition at
2 the University of Wyoming and community colleges for
3 overseas combat veterans and combat veteran widows and
4 orphans; providing definitions; requiring a report;
5 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
6 date.

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

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10 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-14-106(a) by creating new
11 paragraphs (iii) through (v), (c) and by creating new
12 subsections (d) and (e) is amended to read:

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14 **19-14-106. Free tuition and fees for education of war**
15 **orphans and veterans; definitions.**

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2 (a) As used in this section:

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4 (iii) "Academic year" means the twelve (12)
5 month period beginning with the commencement of the fall
6 semester;

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8 (iv) "Combat veteran widow or orphan" means a
9 person who is a widow or orphan of any overseas combat
10 veteran when the overseas combat veteran was a resident of
11 Wyoming for at least one (1) year prior to entering active
12 service and the overseas combat veteran died during active
13 service;

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15 (v) "Overseas combat veteran" means a person who
16 was a resident of Wyoming for at least one (1) year prior
17 to entering into active service, who is an honorably
18 discharged veteran who served in the military service of
19 the United States and who was awarded the armed forces
20 expeditionary medal or other authorized service or campaign
21 medal indicating service to the United States in any armed
22 conflict in a foreign country.

23

1 (c) The University of Wyoming and each community
2 college shall provide free tuition for not more than ten
3 (10) semesters for any ~~Vietnam-veteran~~ overseas combat
4 veteran or combat veteran widow or orphan not presently
5 receiving education benefits under the Servicemen's
6 Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, for any credit or
7 vocational education course for which the ~~Vietnam-veteran~~
8 overseas combat veteran or combat veteran widow or orphan
9 registers. No overseas combat veteran or combat veteran
10 widow or orphan shall be eligible for free tuition under
11 this subsection for any semester commencing after eight (8)
12 academic years following the initial receipt of the free
13 tuition under this subsection.

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15 (d) The community college commission shall reimburse
16 the University of Wyoming and each community college for
17 the costs of tuition provided under this section. If
18 insufficient funds are appropriated, the reimbursement
19 shall be proportionally reduced based on tuition expenses.
20 The commission shall promulgate rules for the
21 implementation of the free tuition pursuant to subsection
22 (c) of this section, including the reimbursement to the
23 university and community colleges.

24

1 (e) The community college commission shall submit to
2 the joint appropriations and the joint education interim
3 committees by October 1, 2006, a report identifying the
4 actions taken and monies expended pursuant to this act and
5 shall submit the report annually thereafter on October 1.

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7 **Section 2.** There is appropriated from the general
8 fund to the community college commission two hundred
9 thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) for reimbursement to the
10 University of Wyoming and the community colleges to cover
11 the free tuition authorized under this act. The community
12 college commission may take an administrative fee, not to
13 exceed five percent (5%), to administer and disburse the
14 funds pursuant to this act. Notwithstanding W.S.
15 9-4-207(a), any unexpended funds appropriated under this
16 section shall not revert to the general fund at the end of
17 the biennium.

18
19 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
20 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
21 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
22 Constitution.

23
24 (END)