

SENATE FILE NO. SF0036

Veterans tuition program limits.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to veterans and higher education;
2 specifying education that a combat veteran, surviving
3 spouse or dependent may pursue under the free tuition
4 program; limiting costs the program covers; reducing the
5 number of semesters the program covers; specifying
6 applicability; and providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-14-106(a) by creating a new
11 paragraph (vi), (b), (d), (f), (j) and (k) is amended to
12 read:

13

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

1

2 (a) As used in this section:

3

4 (vi) "Successive education" means the pursuit of
5 degree based or certificate based education offered by an
6 accredited education institution, which education is a
7 higher level than the student has previously earned. For
8 purposes of this section, a degree or certificate at the
9 same or lower educational level than the student has
10 previously earned shall not be considered successive
11 education unless pursued simultaneously with a higher level
12 degree or certificate.

13

14 (b) The state or any political educational
15 subdivision shall provide free tuition, ~~matriculation and~~
16 ~~other fees~~ to all eligible persons who are residents of
17 this state and who are attending or may attend ~~any state~~
18 ~~institutions in elementary, secondary and college grades,~~
19 ~~business colleges, state vocational training schools or~~
20 ~~other educational institutions of this state~~ the University
21 of Wyoming or a Wyoming community college for the purpose
22 of successive education, where courses of instruction are
23 provided in subjects which would tend to enable the

1 eligible persons to engage in any useful trade, occupation
2 or profession. Funds provided under this section shall not
3 exceed the University of Wyoming current undergraduate rate
4 per semester, regardless of the education level, degree or
5 certification a student pursues.

6
7 (d) The community college commission shall reimburse
8 the University of Wyoming and each community college for
9 the costs of tuition ~~and fees~~ provided under this section.
10 If insufficient funds are appropriated, the reimbursement
11 shall be proportionally reduced based on tuition ~~and fee~~
12 expenses. The commission shall promulgate rules for the
13 implementation of the free tuition ~~and fees~~ pursuant to
14 subsections (f) through (k) of this section, including the
15 reimbursement to the university and community colleges.

16
17 (f) Any person who is a Vietnam veteran, not
18 presently receiving education benefits under the
19 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, an
20 overseas combat veteran, a combat veteran surviving spouse
21 or a combat veteran dependent shall receive free tuition
22 ~~and fees~~ for up to a total of ~~ten (10)~~ eight (8) semesters
23 of study at the University of Wyoming or any Wyoming

1 community college. The University of Wyoming and all
2 Wyoming community colleges shall cooperate to ensure that a
3 total of not more than ~~ten (10)~~ eight (8) semesters is
4 provided under this section to any recipient. No person
5 shall be eligible for the benefits provided under this
6 section for any semester commencing more than eight (8)
7 academic years after the semester in which the person
8 initially receives benefits under this section. The
9 institution in which the student enrolls shall grant
10 exceptions to the requirements of this subsection for
11 military service, religious service or other good cause
12 shown, which exceptions shall be consistent with rules
13 promulgated by the Wyoming department of education for the
14 Hathaway scholarship program under W.S. 21-16-1303(d).

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16 (j) A person who had qualified for free tuition ~~and~~
17 ~~fees~~ under subsection (f) or (g) of this section, shall be
18 deemed eligible for the free tuition ~~and fees~~ at any
19 Wyoming community college or the University of Wyoming up
20 to the maximum number of semesters of study allowed under
21 subsection ~~(a)~~ (f) of this section, if the person transfers
22 to another institution specified in subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) of
23 this section.

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2 (k) To remain eligible for benefits under this
3 section, by the end of the spring semester completing the
4 student's third or fourth semester of attendance, the
5 student shall have a cumulative grade point average of at
6 least two point zero (2.0) and shall maintain a cumulative
7 grade point average of at least two point zero (2.0) at the
8 end of each subsequent spring semester to continue to
9 receive the free tuition ~~and fees.~~

10

11 **Section 2.** Notwithstanding W.S. 19-14-106 as amended
12 by this act, students receiving initial benefits before
13 July 1, 2018, shall be eligible for free tuition and fees
14 for up to a total of ten (10) semesters if such benefits
15 are exercised before August 15, 2020. Students receiving
16 benefits subject to this section may continue work in the
17 certificate or degree based program in which they are
18 currently enrolled regardless of successive education or
19 University of Wyoming undergraduate rate requirements.

20

21 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2018.

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23

(END)