

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0310

Wyoming's tomorrow.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Connolly and Paxton
and Senator(s) Kost and Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; providing for a study to create
2 a grant program to make two years of education at Wyoming
3 community colleges and the University of Wyoming as free as
4 possible; creating a task force; specifying membership;
5 providing parameters for the study and the program; creating
6 an endowment fund; providing an appropriation for the study;
7 providing for future implementation; and providing for an
8 effective date.

9

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

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-4-204(u) by creating a new paragraph
13 (viii) and 9-4-714(a)(v) are amended to read:

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15 **9-4-204. Funds established; use thereof.**

1

2 (u) Other funds defined as follows shall be classified
3 by the state auditor pursuant to subsections (s) and (t) of
4 this section:

5

6 (viii) The Wyoming's tomorrow endowment fund - to
7 consist of funds appropriated or designated to the fund by
8 law, or by gift from whatever source. In accordance with
9 Wyoming constitution, article 15, section 20, monies within
10 the fund shall not be expended and may be invested in the
11 same manner as other permanent funds of the state. Earnings
12 from investment of monies within the fund shall be deposited
13 to the fund unless otherwise specified by law.

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15 **9-4-714. Definitions.**

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17 (a) As used in this act:

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19 (v) "Permanent funds" means the permanent Wyoming
20 mineral trust fund under W.S. 9-4-204(u)(iii), the Wyoming
21 permanent land fund under W.S. 9-4-204(u)(iv), the excellence
22 in higher education endowment fund under W.S. 9-4-204(u)(vi), ~~and~~
23 ~~and~~ the Hathaway student scholarship endowment fund under

1 W.S. 9-4-204(u)(vii) and the Wyoming's tomorrow endowment
2 fund under W.S. 9-4-204(u)(viii);

3

4 **Section 2.**

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6 (a) There is created a Wyoming's tomorrow task force to
7 consist of the following:

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9 (i) One (1) representative of the University of
10 Wyoming, appointed by the governor;

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12 (ii) One (1) representative of community colleges,
13 appointed by the governor;

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15 (iii) One (1) representative of the community
16 college commission appointed by the commission;

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18 (iv) Two (2) representatives from business and
19 industry, appointed by the governor;

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21 (v) One (1) representative of the public,
22 appointed by the governor;

23

1 (vi) One (1) representative from the Wyoming K-12
2 educational community appointed by the state superintendent
3 of public instruction;

4
5 (vii) One (1) representative from the Wyoming
6 department of education appointed by the state superintendent
7 of public instruction;

8
9 (viii) Two (2) members of the Wyoming house of
10 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house;

11
12 (ix) Two (2) members of the Wyoming senate,
13 appointed by the president of the senate.

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15 (b) The task force shall study the Tennessee Promise
16 program, and consider other scholarship or grant programs in
17 order to inform the development of potential education
18 scholarship or grant programs to be funded by the earnings
19 from the Wyoming's tomorrow endowment fund created by this
20 act. The task force shall include in its review 2019 Senate
21 File 34, Senate File 43 and Senate File 122 and House Bill
22 132, House Bill 133, House Bill 137 and House Bill 263 if not
23 enacted into law. It shall also review existing state funded

1 economic development, diversification and workforce
2 development programs, and consider potential alignment of and
3 need for those programs with the implementation of the
4 Wyoming's tomorrow program. The goal of the task force shall
5 be to make recommendations to the Wyoming legislature for
6 future legislation needed for scholarship or grant programs
7 and to make undergraduate post secondary education in Wyoming
8 as free as possible to Wyoming residents. The task force shall
9 provide recommendations for a program which is not based on
10 scholastic achievement for entry to the program. The task
11 force may consider scholastic achievement based components
12 for entry and continued enrollment in the program. The task
13 force shall review potential contributions the program can
14 make to economic development and diversification efforts of
15 the state considering labor needs within the state. The task
16 force shall consider and make recommendations as to the
17 following:

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19 (i) The amount of tuition, fees and other
20 education related payments incurred by Wyoming resident
21 students at the university and community colleges for
22 undergraduate degrees and certificates;

23

1 (ii) The amount of funds required in the endowment
2 fund created by this act in order to provide Wyoming residents
3 with tuition and mandatory fees at each community college and
4 the university for two (2) years of undergraduate attendance
5 considering current and anticipated growth in enrollment and
6 increases in tuition and fees;

7
8 (iii) Requirements for continued enrollment and
9 reentry requirements for students failing to maintain
10 satisfactory academic progress;

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12 (iv) Dual post secondary and K-12 enrollment
13 modifications or early graduation provisions in order for the
14 state education system to be more responsive to the state's
15 workforce needs and funding modifications associated with
16 dual enrollment modifications or early graduation provisions;

17
18 (v) Waiver provisions, if any, regarding
19 continuing scholarship requirements;

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21 (vi) Administrative oversight of the program;

22
23 (vii) An implementation date for the program;

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2 (viii) Potential increases in required state
3 funding for the university and community colleges as a result
4 of projected increases in enrollment, tuition and fees;

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6 (ix) Reallocation of state funding for existing
7 educational scholarship and grant programs and economic
8 development and diversification efforts funded with state
9 funds. The task force shall consider reallocation of Hathaway
10 funds made available as a result of Wyoming's tomorrow program
11 to the Hathaway student scholarship program in order to
12 increase Hathaway scholarship amounts;

13

14 (x) A means for industry and other private funding
15 for the program, whether such contribution should be a
16 requirement for implementation of the program and recommended
17 terms and conditions for that participation;

18

19 (xi) Other additional funding sources or options
20 for the program, with a goal of funding the Wyoming's tomorrow
21 endowment in the amount sufficient to provide Wyoming
22 residents free tuition and mandatory fees for two (2) years

1 of undergraduate education at the University of Wyoming or a
2 Wyoming community college.

3
4 (c) The task force may retain consultants as necessary
5 to fulfill its duties under this act. The task force shall be
6 staffed by the legislative service office. State agencies
7 shall provide information to the task force as requested in
8 order to fulfill the task force's duties. The legislative
9 members of the task force shall receive compensation, per
10 diem and travel expenses in the manner and amount prescribed
11 by W.S. 28-5-101. Task force members who are not legislators
12 and are not state employees shall receive the per diem and
13 mileage paid members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S.
14 28-5-101 for each day of actual task force meetings and travel
15 to those meetings.

16
17 (d) The task force shall report its initial findings
18 and recommendations to the governor, the joint appropriations
19 committee and the joint education interim committee by
20 November 1, 2019 and, if the committee determines
21 modifications to its initial findings and recommendations are
22 appropriate, again by November 1, 2020. Either legislative
23 committee may sponsor legislation for introduction in the

1 2020 budget session implementing the Wyoming's tomorrow
2 program in whole or in part as the legislative committee
3 determines appropriate.

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5 (e) The task force shall terminate December 31, 2020.

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7 **Section 3.** There is appropriated thirty thousand
8 dollars (\$30,000.00) from the general fund to the legislative
9 service office for per diem, mileage and salary of members of
10 the Wyoming's tomorrow task force. Notwithstanding any other
11 provision of law, this appropriation shall not be transferred
12 or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended,
13 unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall
14 revert as provided by law on June 30, 2021.

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

19

20 (END)