

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact, in the form of increased expenditures from the Hathaway Expenditure Account, is indeterminable.

The bill creates the new Hathaway Expand Wyoming Scholarship ("scholarship"). This scholarship may be awarded each year to two students from each state contiguous to Wyoming (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah). The scholarship would be for the resident cost of attendance at the University of Wyoming (UW) or a Wyoming community college, but not to exceed the maximum dollar amount provided to students receiving a Trustee Scholarship at UW.

The bill also creates the Hathaway Expand Wyoming Scholarship Account (HEWSA) within the Hathaway Student Scholarship Endowment Fund. The State Treasurer is authorized to accept private monetary gifts for the HEWSA. The HEWSA shall exist until the State Treasurer certifies to the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) that the balance of the HEWSA is equal to or greater than \$10.0 million. When the balance of the HEWSA is equal to or greater than \$10.0 million, the funds in the HEWSA shall be treated as funds of the Hathaway Student Scholarship Endowment Fund and the HEWSA shall cease to exist. No scholarships shall be awarded until the State Treasurer certifies to the WDE that the balance of the HEWSA is equal to or greater than \$5.0 million.

The maximum number of scholarships that could be awarded after four years of implementation would be 48 scholarships (2 students times 6 contiguous states times 4 years). According to UW, the UW Trustees Scholarship cannot surpass the resident cost of attendance. For the 2018-19 academic year, the resident cost of attendance is \$15,900. Based on this amount, the maximum increase in expenditures from the Hathaway Expenditure Account would be \$190,800 in the first year of implementation, \$381,600 in the second year, \$572,400 in the third year and \$763,200 in the fourth year and each year thereafter. The amount in scholarships that may be repaid by scholarship recipients and deposited in the Hathaway Student Scholarship Endowment Fund is indeterminable.

The WDE states that the bill will require tracking of scholarship recipients, especially upon college graduation, as scholarship recipients would be required to 1) work in Wyoming after graduation, 2) attend graduate school at UW or 3) repay the scholarship with interest. Tracking these students may result in increased administrative costs. The bill would also require the WDE to develop a means of informing students in contiguous states of the availability of the scholarship. The WDE states that this would involve an increase in out-of-state travel costs, as well as costs related to producing and shipping informational materials to schools in the contiguous states. The WDE estimates this cost at \$12,000 per year for travel and promotional costs. These additional costs would begin to be incurred once the HEWSA balance reaches \$5.0 million.

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