

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0250

Community colleges-baccalaureate degree programs.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) MacGuire, Crank, Hallinan, Henderson, Larsen, Nicholas, Paxton, Pownall and Styvar and Senator(s) Anderson, Nethercott and Von Flatern

## A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to post secondary education; making  
 2 legislative findings; authorizing community colleges to  
 3 confer baccalaureate degrees; providing for community college  
 4 commission approval of a limited number of baccalaureate  
 5 degree programs as specified; establishing a time-limited  
 6 matching funds program to create community college  
 7 baccalaureate degree programs; conforming Hathaway  
 8 scholarship statutes; requiring a report; providing for an  
 9 appropriation as specified; and providing for an effective  
 10 date.

11

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

13

14 **Section 1.**

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2 (a) The legislature finds that:

3

4 (i) The availability of baccalaureate degree  
5 programs in Wyoming directly impacts Wyoming's ability to  
6 promote and achieve the goals of the legislative and executive  
7 branches' economic and education initiatives;

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9 (ii) There exists a need to increase the  
10 availability of baccalaureate degree programs in Wyoming to  
11 enable:

12

13 (A) Increased educational opportunity,  
14 particularly for students who must remain close to home for  
15 reasons related to family, health or work while earning a  
16 college degree; and

17

18 (B) Increased skill development, which will  
19 lead to economic expansion and diversification.

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21 (iii) Increasing the availability of  
22 baccalaureate degree programs in the state will not diminish  
23 Wyomingites' love for the University of Wyoming.

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2           **Section 2.** W.S. 21-18-227 is created to read:

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4           **21-18-227. Wyoming priority community college**  
5 **baccalaureate degree development program; sunset.**

6

7           (a) The commission, in consultation with the  
8 coordinator of economic diversification, shall administer the  
9 Wyoming community college baccalaureate degree development  
10 program. Using available monies within the community college  
11 baccalaureate program development subaccount created in W.S.  
12 9-12-1404(a)(vi), and subject to approval of the governor or  
13 his designee, the commission may provide matching funds to  
14 assist in the development of community college baccalaureate  
15 programs. The funds shall be provided to community colleges  
16 to develop baccalaureate degree programs in priority economic  
17 sectors as identified by the commission for the purpose of  
18 providing college students the education and training  
19 required for jobs in new or expanding priority economic sector  
20 businesses in the state.

21

22           (b) A Wyoming community college may apply to the  
23 commission to receive matching funds to develop baccalaureate

1 degree programs. A written application shall be filed with  
2 the commission by October 1, 2019. The application shall  
3 describe the community college's plan to create a  
4 baccalaureate degree program and how the degree program will  
5 facilitate Wyoming residents earning degrees in priority  
6 economic sectors. Before submitting the application, a  
7 community college shall consult with the Wyoming department  
8 of workforce services, local community development  
9 organizations, local leaders in industries that may benefit  
10 from the baccalaureate degree program and other local  
11 business leaders and stakeholders regarding the community  
12 college's plan to create a baccalaureate degree program.

13

14 (c) A community college shall identify to the  
15 commission gifts for which the community college seeks to  
16 receive matching funds. The commission shall only match gifts  
17 that are irrevocably given to and received by the community  
18 college on or after July 1, 2019 and before June 1, 2020 for  
19 the purpose of developing a baccalaureate degree program. For  
20 purposes of this section, "gift" includes anything of value  
21 that is deemed by the commission and the community college  
22 receiving the gift as consistent with the mission of the  
23 community college.

1

2           (d) The commission shall evaluate all applications  
3 received. The commission shall consider whether and to what  
4 extent a community college's application meets the purposes  
5 of this section. Subject to approval of the governor or his  
6 designee, by June 1, 2020, the commission shall announce  
7 awards for matching funds and shall transfer awarded funds to  
8 the applicable community college. The commission may award an  
9 amount equal to a portion or all of a community college's  
10 matching funds request as contained in its petition, however,  
11 the commission shall not grant an award under this section at  
12 a higher rate than a match of one dollar (\$1.00) to one dollar  
13 (\$1.00).

14

15           (e) The commission shall restrict matching funds  
16 awarded pursuant to this section so that the funds may only  
17 be used for the purpose of developing a baccalaureate degree  
18 program.

19

20           (f) Nothing in this section obligates the legislature  
21 or the commission to match a gift received by a community  
22 college for the purpose of developing a baccalaureate degree

1 program. The legislature reserves the right to modify or  
2 terminate the matching program at any time.

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4 (g) This section is repealed effective June 30, 2020.

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6 **Section 3.** W.S. 9-12-1404(a) by creating a new  
7 paragraph (vi), 21-16-1303(f)(iv), 21-16-1304(b),  
8 21-16-1305(a)(iii), 21-18-102(a)(i), 21-18-202(b)(v), (d)(i)  
9 and (h)(ii) and 21-18-303(a)(xvi) are amended to read:

10

11 **9-12-1404. Economic diversification account created;**  
12 **authorized expenditures.**

13

14 (a) There is created an economic diversification  
15 account. All monies in the account are continuously  
16 appropriated to the office of the governor to be used for the  
17 purposes of this article and as otherwise specified by law,  
18 including per diem, mileage and other administrative expenses  
19 of the ENDOW executive council. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008  
20 and 9-4-207, funds in the account or subaccounts of the  
21 account shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal period.  
22 Interest earned on funds in the account shall be deposited to  
23 the account or appropriate subaccount. Within the account

1 shall be subaccounts. For accounting and investment purposes  
2 only all subaccounts shall be treated as separate accounts.  
3 The subaccounts are as follows:

4  
5 (vi) The community college baccalaureate program  
6 development subaccount. Funds within this subaccount may be  
7 expended as requested by the Wyoming community college  
8 commission and approved by the governor or his designee to  
9 provide matching funds to community colleges under W.S.  
10 21-18-227. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all  
11 unexpended, unobligated funds to the community college  
12 baccalaureate program development subaccount on June 30, 2020  
13 shall revert to the Wyoming workforce development priority  
14 economic sector partnership subaccount.

15  
16 **21-16-1303. Hathaway scholarship program; eligibility**  
17 **requirements.**

18  
19 (f) Students meeting the requirements of this  
20 subsection shall not be subject to the six (6) academic year  
21 limitation on scholarships under this article, the  
22 satisfactory academic progress requirements of W.S.  
23 21-16-1304(c)(i) and 21-16-1305(b)(i) or the continuous

1 enrollment requirements of W.S. 21-16-1304(c)(ii) and  
2 21-16-1305(b)(ii), but shall be subject to the following:

3

4 (iv) Within the earlier of eight (8) years of  
5 initial Hathaway scholarship eligibility or four (4) years of  
6 last attending an eligible institution while receiving a  
7 Hathaway scholarship, have enrolled at the University of  
8 Wyoming or a Wyoming community college to complete a  
9 baccalaureate of applied science degree and have applied for  
10 reinstatement of the student's Hathaway scholarship;

11

12 **21-16-1304. Hathaway opportunity, performance and**  
13 **honor scholarships.**

14

15 (b) Scholarships under this section shall be for a  
16 maximum of the equivalent of eight (8) full-time semesters.  
17 ~~Except as specified under subsection (g) of this section, A~~  
18 scholarship under this section shall be available for  
19 attendance at a Wyoming community college for not more than  
20 a maximum of the equivalent of four (4) full-time semesters, ~~and~~  
21 except as follows:

22



1           (i) As specified under subsection (g) of this  
2 section; or

3  
4           (ii) A scholarship for a student enrolled in a  
5 baccalaureate degree program at a Wyoming community college  
6 shall be for a maximum of the equivalent of eight (8)  
7 full-time semesters.

8  
9           **21-16-1305. Hathaway           provisional           opportunity**  
10 **scholarships.**

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12           (a) Any student who meets the criteria under W.S.  
13 21-16-1303 is eligible to receive a Hathaway provisional  
14 opportunity scholarship to pursue a certificate or degree as  
15 follows:

16  
17           (iii) A student who receives a scholarship under  
18 paragraph (i) of this subsection and who earns a certificate  
19 from the community college with a minimum cumulative GPA of  
20 2.25 may extend the provisional opportunity scholarship to  
21 pursue either a certificate or a degree at a Wyoming community  
22 college or if the student earns a degree from the community  
23 college with a minimum GPA of 2.25, may extend the scholarship

1 to pursue a degree at the University of Wyoming if the student  
2 maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 and otherwise  
3 remains eligible for a scholarship under this article. A  
4 student who receives a scholarship under paragraph (i) of  
5 this subsection, is enrolled in a community college  
6 baccalaureate program and has received a minimum cumulative  
7 GPA of 2.25 after four (4) full-time semesters may extend the  
8 provisional opportunity scholarship for an additional four  
9 (4) full-time semesters to complete the baccalaureate degree  
10 if the student maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 and  
11 otherwise remains eligible for a scholarship under this  
12 article. The scholarship under this paragraph shall be for  
13 the same amounts and subject to the same limitations as  
14 provided for scholarships under paragraph (a)(i) of this  
15 section, except that the student may continue a baccalaureate  
16 program or pursue either an additional certificate or a degree  
17 and the student may use this scholarship while attending a  
18 Wyoming community college or the University of Wyoming.

19

20 **21-18-102. Definitions.**

21

22 (a) As used in this act:

23

1 (i) "Academic program" means those programs  
2 approved by the commission which provide credits;

3  
4 (A) Resulting in a two (2) year associate  
5 degree;

6  
7 (B) Resulting in a baccalaureate degree; or

8  
9 (C) Which may be transferred to an accredited  
10 four (4) year college or university.

11  
12 **21-18-202. Powers and duties of the commission.**

13  
14 (b) The commission shall perform the following  
15 coordination functions. In performing these coordination  
16 functions all affected colleges and the commission shall be  
17 involved:

18  
19 (v) Coordinate the provision by means of  
20 electronic internet or similar proprietary or common carrier  
21 electronic system technology, by a community college or  
22 several community colleges, the general education courses  
23 necessary for completion of an educational program in the

1 field of nursing at a community college, including a  
2 baccalaureate degree if offered, or a baccalaureate degree  
3 program in nursing at the University of Wyoming;

4

5 (d) The commission shall perform the following approval  
6 functions:

7

8 (i) Approve all new programs, including  
9 baccalaureate degree programs, qualifying for state funding  
10 pursuant to the statewide community college strategic plan  
11 developed under subsection (h) of this section;

12

13 (h) The commission shall prior to the beginning of each  
14 biennial budget period, review, update and modify the  
15 statewide college system strategic plan. The plan shall  
16 clearly prescribe the components of the educational program  
17 and attach program components to statewide system priorities.  
18 This plan shall serve as the basis for state operational and  
19 capital construction budget requests and funding of the  
20 statewide college system for the applicable biennial budget  
21 period. In developing, reviewing and updating the strategic  
22 plan, the commission shall:

23

1           (ii) Include mechanisms within the planning  
2 process which adhere to the state's interests in establishing  
3 a statewide college system identified as assuring statewide  
4 access to:

5  
6           (A) Academic programs, including up to three  
7 (3) baccalaureate degree programs per community college;

8  
9           (B) Career-technical education and training  
10 programs;

11  
12           (C) Dual and concurrent enrollment  
13 programs; and

14  
15           (D) Remedial and continuing education  
16 programs responding to needs of students, employers and the  
17 state workforce, including program access through outreach or  
18 coordinated electronic system technology.

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20           **21-18-303. District board generally; powers; board**  
21 **approved additional mill levy.**

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23           (a) The community college district board may:

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2 (xvi) Confer degrees, including baccalaureate  
3 degrees in programs approved by the commission, and  
4 certificates and grant diplomas as are usual for community  
5 colleges and authorized under its accreditation by the  
6 regional accrediting agency;

7

8 **Section 4.** The community college commission shall  
9 evaluate each baccalaureate program offered by a Wyoming  
10 community college and report on the costs and benefits of  
11 each program to the legislature by June 1, 2025. In its  
12 report, the community college commission shall recommend  
13 whether community colleges should continue to have the  
14 ability to offer baccalaureate degrees and report on any  
15 recommended changes to this act.

16

17 **Section 5.** On the effective date of this act there is  
18 appropriated one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) or as much  
19 thereof as is available from the unexpended and unobligated  
20 funds within the Wyoming workforce development priority  
21 economic sector partnership subaccount to the community  
22 college baccalaureate program development subaccount.

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1           **Section 6.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

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(END)