

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0263

Postsecondary education and economic development.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman and Simpson and  
Senator(s) Dockstader, Driskill and Pappas

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to postsecondary education and economic  
2 development; making legislative findings; authorizing  
3 community colleges to confer baccalaureate degrees; providing  
4 for community college commission approval of a limited number  
5 of baccalaureate degree programs as specified; conforming  
6 Hathaway scholarship statutes; specifying certain programs  
7 to be reviewed for inclusion by higher education  
8 institutions; providing for review of baccalaureate programs  
9 provided by colleges; modifying duties of the economically  
10 needed diversity options for Wyoming executive council to  
11 include consideration of the need for postsecondary programs  
12 for continued economic development and diversification in  
13 Wyoming; requiring reports; authorizing additional uses of  
14 economically needed diversity options funds for required

1 reviews; specifying date for approval of additional  
2 baccalaureate programs; and providing for an effective date.

3

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

5

6 **Section 1.**

7

8 (a) The legislature finds that:

9

10 (i) The availability of baccalaureate degree  
11 programs in Wyoming impacts Wyoming's ability to promote and  
12 achieve the goals of the legislative and executive branches'  
13 economic and education initiatives;

14

15 (ii) There exists a need to increase the  
16 availability of baccalaureate degree programs in Wyoming to  
17 enable:

18

19 (A) Increased educational opportunity,  
20 particularly for students who must remain close to home for  
21 reasons related to family, health or work while earning a  
22 college degree; and

23

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

3

4                   (iii) Increasing the availability of  
5 baccalaureate degree programs in the state is compatible with  
6 the continued legislative support of the University of  
7 Wyoming.

8

9           **Section**                   2. W.S.                   9-12-1402(a)(xii),  
10 9-12-1404(a)(iii)(A)           and           (B),           21-16-1303(f)(iv),  
11 21-16-1304(b),           21-16-1305(a)(iii),           21-18-102(a)(i),  
12 21-18-202(b)(v), (d)(i) and (h)(ii) and 21-18-303(a)(xvi) are  
13 amended to read:

14

15           **9-12-1402. General powers and duties of the council;**  
16 **economic diversification policy and strategy; authority of**  
17 **governor.**

18

19           (a) The ENDOW executive council shall:

20

21                   (xii) In consultation with the University of  
22 Wyoming, community colleges, the department of education,

1 department of workforce services and Wyoming business  
2 council;~~;~~

3

4 (A) Review existing career technical  
5 education programs and develop recommendations regarding  
6 opportunities to better coordinate existing public and  
7 private programs, and develop or acquire existing career  
8 technical education facilities to further technical education  
9 opportunities in the state;~~The~~

10

11 (B) Review existing, proposed and potential  
12 baccalaureate degree programs which may be provided at a  
13 Wyoming community college to determine the need for the  
14 program in light of the state's economic development and  
15 diversification efforts and recommend specific baccalaureate  
16 degree programs for consideration by the colleges and Wyoming  
17 community college commission;

18

19 (C) Make recommendations regarding its  
20 review under this paragraph. Recommendations shall be  
21 included in the council's twenty (20) year economic  
22 diversification strategy and may be included in the council's

1 four (4) year action plan as determined appropriate by the  
2 council.

3

4 **9-12-1404. Economic diversification account created;**  
5 **authorized expenditures.**

6

7 (a) There is created an economic diversification  
8 account. All monies in the account are continuously  
9 appropriated to the office of the governor to be used for the  
10 purposes of this article and as otherwise specified by law,  
11 including per diem, mileage and other administrative expenses  
12 of the ENDOW executive council. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008  
13 and 9-4-207, funds in the account or subaccounts of the  
14 account shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal period.  
15 Interest earned on funds in the account shall be deposited to  
16 the account or appropriate subaccount. Within the account  
17 shall be subaccounts. For accounting and investment purposes  
18 only all subaccounts shall be treated as separate accounts.  
19 The subaccounts are as follows:

20

21 (iii) The Wyoming workforce development-priority  
22 economic sector partnership subaccount. Funds within this  
23 subaccount may be expended:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

(A) As approved by director of the department of workforce services for administrative costs incurred by the department of workforce services associated with administration of the Wyoming workforce development-priority economic sector partnership program under W.S. 9-2-2609 through 9-2-2611; ~~and~~

(B) As approved by the governor or his designee:

(I) To provide funding for agreements entered into pursuant to W.S. 9-2-2609 through 9-2-2611; and

(II) To fund expenses associated with the council's study under W.S. 9-12-1402(a)(xii) of education programs and, as specified by law, to fund other studies regarding the potential expansion of educational programs to support economic development and diversification efforts.

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

1 (f) Students meeting the requirements of this  
2 subsection shall not be subject to the six (6) academic year  
3 limitation on scholarships under this article, the  
4 satisfactory academic progress requirements of W.S.  
5 21-16-1304(c)(i) and 21-16-1305(b)(i) or the continuous  
6 enrollment requirements of W.S. 21-16-1304(c)(ii) and  
7 21-16-1305(b)(ii), but shall be subject to the following:

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

16  
17 **21-16-1304. Hathaway opportunity, performance and**  
18 **honor scholarships.**

19  
20 (b) Scholarships under this section shall be for a  
21 maximum of the equivalent of eight (8) full-time semesters.  
22 ~~Except as specified under subsection (g) of this section, A~~  
23 scholarship under this section shall be available for

1 attendance at a Wyoming community college for not more than  
2 a maximum of the equivalent of four (4) full-time semesters.

3 except as follows:

4

5 (i) As specified under subsection (g) of this  
6 section; or

7

8 (ii) A scholarship for a student enrolled in a  
9 baccalaureate degree program at a Wyoming community college  
10 shall be for a maximum of the equivalent of eight (8)  
11 full-time semesters.

12

13 **21-16-1305. Hathaway provisional opportunity**  
14 **scholarships.**

15

16 (a) Any student who meets the criteria under W.S.  
17 21-16-1303 is eligible to receive a Hathaway provisional  
18 opportunity scholarship to pursue a certificate or degree as  
19 follows:

20

21 (iii) A student who receives a scholarship under  
22 paragraph (i) of this subsection and who earns a certificate  
23 from the community college with a minimum cumulative GPA of



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

23

1           **21-18-102. Definitions.**

2

3           (a) As used in this act:

4

5                   (i) "Academic program" means those programs  
6 approved by the commission which provide credits:

7

8                           (A) Resulting in a two (2) year associate  
9 degree;

10

11                           (B) Resulting in a baccalaureate degree; or

12

13                           (C) Which may be transferred to an accredited  
14 four (4) year college or university.

15

16           **21-18-202. Powers and duties of the commission.**

17

18           (b) The commission shall perform the following  
19 coordination functions. In performing these coordination  
20 functions all affected colleges and the commission shall be  
21 involved:

22

1           (v) Coordinate the provision by means of  
2 electronic internet or similar proprietary or common carrier  
3 electronic system technology, by a community college or  
4 several community colleges, the general education courses  
5 necessary for completion of an educational program in the  
6 field of nursing at a community college, including a  
7 baccalaureate degree if offered, or a baccalaureate degree  
8 program in nursing at the University of Wyoming;

9

10           (d) The commission shall perform the following approval  
11 functions:

12

13           (i) Approve all new programs, including  
14 baccalaureate degree programs, qualifying for state funding  
15 pursuant to the statewide community college strategic plan  
16 developed under subsection (h) of this section;

17

18           (h) The commission shall prior to the beginning of each  
19 biennial budget period, review, update and modify the  
20 statewide college system strategic plan. The plan shall  
21 clearly prescribe the components of the educational program  
22 and attach program components to statewide system priorities.  
23 This plan shall serve as the basis for state operational and

1 capital construction budget requests and funding of the  
2 statewide college system for the applicable biennial budget  
3 period. In developing, reviewing and updating the strategic  
4 plan, the commission shall:

5

6 (ii) Include mechanisms within the planning  
7 process which adhere to the state's interests in establishing  
8 a statewide college system identified as assuring statewide  
9 access to:

10

11 (A) Academic programs, including one (1)  
12 baccalaureate degree program at each community college, and  
13 an additional baccalaureate degree program at each community  
14 college if a community college demonstrates sufficient  
15 community need;

16

17 (B) Career-technical education and training  
18 programs;

19

20 (C) Dual and concurrent enrollment  
21 programs; and

22

1                    (D) Remedial and continuing education  
2 programs responding to needs of students, employers and the  
3 state workforce, including program access through outreach or  
4 coordinated electronic system technology.†

5

6            **21-18-303. District board generally; powers; board**  
7 **approved additional mill levy.**

8

9            (a) The community college district board may:

10

11            (xvi) Confer degrees, including baccalaureate  
12 degrees in programs approved by the commission, and  
13 certificates and grant diplomas as are usual for community  
14 colleges and authorized under its accreditation by the  
15 regional accrediting agency;

16

17            **Section 3.**

18

19            (a) In consultation with the University of Wyoming and  
20 community colleges, the community college commission shall  
21 evaluate the funding, other implementation needs and  
22 appropriate timeframe to:

23

1           (i) Establish health care provider programs at  
2 community colleges. The commission may consider potential  
3 undergraduate and postgraduate health care provider programs  
4 under this paragraph;

5

6           (ii) Re-establish a career and technical training  
7 program by the University of Wyoming as an outreach program  
8 at Casper, Wyoming;

9

10           (iii) Establish a baccalaureate program in  
11 education at Central Wyoming community college.

12

13           (b) The community college commission shall consult with  
14 the department of workforce services, the department of  
15 education, the economically needed diversity options for  
16 Wyoming executive council and Wyoming business council  
17 regarding the effect the programs specified in subsection (a)  
18 of this section could have on economic development and  
19 diversification efforts in Wyoming. The community college  
20 commission shall report the results of the study under  
21 subsection (a) of this section, including any responses by  
22 the entities specified in this subsection and recommendations  
23 of the community college commission, to the joint education

1 interim committee not later than September 1, 2019. The joint  
2 education interim committee shall sponsor legislation  
3 implementing recommendations of the commission as it  
4 determines appropriate for consideration in the 2020 budget  
5 session of the legislature.

6

7 (c) The governor or his designee may authorize funding  
8 from the Wyoming workforce development-priority economic  
9 sector partnership subaccount as provided by W.S.  
10 9-12-1404(a)(iii)(B)(II) for purposes of the commission's  
11 study under subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

12

13 (d) The community college commission shall not approve  
14 a baccalaureate program pursuant to this act prior to April  
15 1, 2020. The community college commission shall review each  
16 baccalaureate program offered by a Wyoming community college  
17 and report on the costs and benefits of each program to the  
18 legislature by June 1, 2025. In its report, the community  
19 college commission shall recommend whether community colleges  
20 should continue to have the ability to offer baccalaureate  
21 degrees and report on any recommended changes to this act.

22

1           **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

2

3

(END)