

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; authorizing a pilot project to allow students
3 attending community colleges to receive applied baccalaureate
4 degrees conferred by the University; conforming Hathaway
5 scholarship statutes; specifying certain programs to be
6 reviewed for future inclusion by higher education
7 institutions; specifying conditions for the pilot program;
8 requiring reports; making legislative findings; and providing
9 for an effective date.

10

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

12

13 **Section 1.**

14

15 (a) The legislature finds that:

1

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

6

7 (ii) There exists a need to increase the
8 availability of baccalaureate degrees in Wyoming to enable:

9

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

14

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

17

18 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-17-125 is created to read:

19

20 **21-17-125. Baccalaureate of applied science pilot**
21 **program; attendance at community colleges; conditions.**

22

1 (a) The University of Wyoming shall work with each
2 community college and the Wyoming community college
3 commission to develop and implement a pilot program at each
4 college under which instruction is provided at the community
5 college to allow a student enrolled in a baccalaureate of
6 applied science program to achieve all academic requirements
7 at the community college location. In implementing programs
8 under this section, the university and colleges shall
9 consider workforce needs within the state as identified
10 within the economically needed diversity options for Wyoming
11 executive council's twenty (20) year economic diversification
12 strategy and students' needs to access the program at the
13 community college location. The programs established under
14 this section shall be subject to the following:

15

16 (i) The degree shall be conferred by the
17 University of Wyoming, with the student able to receive all
18 instruction at the location of the community college through
19 virtual education through the college or by attendance at a
20 classroom at the college in a timeframe comparable to that if
21 attending classes at the university;

22

1 (ii) Not more than two (2) programs shall be
2 provided at each community college. Not more than ten (10)
3 programs in total shall be provided under the pilot program.
4 If a college has requested a program under this section it
5 shall not request a second program until at least ninety (90)
6 days have elapsed since the college's submission of the first
7 program to the university, unless every college without a
8 program under this section has notified the university that
9 it does not plan to propose a program;

10

11 (iii) The university and each college shall
12 endeavor to implement each program not later than the
13 2020-2021 academic year;

14

15 (iv) The program offered shall be as requested by
16 the community college. The university and college shall
17 implement a memorandum of understanding for the program
18 within sixty (60) days after the university receives the
19 request for the program;

20

21 (v) Tuition and fees charged for enrollment in a
22 program provided under this section shall be the amount

1 charged by the community college for comparable hours of
2 instruction;

3

4 (vi) Delivery of the program, including division
5 of tuition and fees generated, shall be as mutually agreed by
6 the university and each college;

7

8 (vii) Subject to paragraph (viii) of this
9 subsection, enrollment in a program under this section may be
10 curtailed at any time subject to mutual agreement by the
11 university and college;

12

13 (viii) Any student enrolled in a program commenced
14 under this section shall be allowed to continue in the program
15 until the earlier of graduation from the program,
16 disenrollment, or five (5) years from initial enrollment, so
17 long as satisfactory academic progress is made.

18

19 (b) The university and the community college commission
20 shall report to the joint education interim committee on the
21 status of the programs implemented under this section by
22 November 1 of each year.

23

1 **Section 3.** W.S. 21-16-1303(f)(iv), 21-16-1304(b),
2 21-16-1305(a)(iii), 21-18-102(a)(i) and 21-18-202(d)(i) and
3 (h)(ii) are amended to read:

4

5 **21-16-1303. Hathaway scholarship program; eligibility**
6 **requirements.**

7

8 (f) Students meeting the requirements of this
9 subsection shall not be subject to the six (6) academic year
10 limitation on scholarships under this article, the
11 satisfactory academic progress requirements of W.S.
12 21-16-1304(c)(i) and 21-16-1305(b)(i) or the continuous
13 enrollment requirements of W.S. 21-16-1304(c)(ii) and
14 21-16-1305(b)(ii), but shall be subject to the following:

15

16 (iv) Within the earlier of eight (8) years of
17 initial Hathaway scholarship eligibility or four (4) years of
18 last attending an eligible institution while receiving a
19 Hathaway scholarship, have enrolled at the University of
20 Wyoming to complete a baccalaureate of applied science degree
21 or attending a Wyoming community college to complete a
22 baccalaureate of applied science degree as authorized by W.S.

1 21-17-125 and have applied for reinstatement of the student's
2 Hathaway scholarship;

3

4 **21-16-1304. Hathaway opportunity, performance and**
5 **honor scholarships.**

6

7 (b) Scholarships under this section shall be for a
8 maximum of the equivalent of eight (8) full-time semesters.
9 ~~Except as specified under subsection (g) of this section, A~~
10 scholarship under this section shall be available for
11 attendance at a Wyoming community college for not more than
12 a maximum of the equivalent of four (4) full-time semesters. ~~;~~
13 except as follows:

14

15 (i) As specified under subsection (g) of this
16 section; or

17

18 (ii) A scholarship for a student enrolled in a
19 baccalaureate degree program provided pursuant to W.S.
20 21-17-125 with attendance at a Wyoming community college
21 shall be for a maximum of the equivalent of eight (8)
22 full-time semesters.

23

1 **21-16-1305. Hathaway provisional opportunity**
2 **scholarships.**

3
4 (a) Any student who meets the criteria under W.S.
5 21-16-1303 is eligible to receive a Hathaway provisional
6 opportunity scholarship to pursue a certificate or degree as
7 follows:

8
9 (iii) A student who receives a scholarship under
10 paragraph (i) of this subsection and who earns a certificate
11 from the community college with a minimum cumulative GPA of
12 2.25 may extend the provisional opportunity scholarship to
13 pursue either a certificate or a degree at a Wyoming community
14 college or if the student earns a degree from the community
15 college with a minimum GPA of 2.25, may extend the scholarship
16 to pursue a degree at the University of Wyoming if the student
17 maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 and otherwise
18 remains eligible for a scholarship under this article. A
19 student who receives a scholarship under paragraph (i) of
20 this subsection, is enrolled in a baccalaureate program
21 provided pursuant to W.S. 21-17-125 with attendance at a
22 community college and has received a minimum cumulative GPA
23 of 2.25 after four (4) full-time semesters may extend the

1 provisional opportunity scholarship for an additional four
2 (4) full-time semesters to complete the baccalaureate degree
3 if the student maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 and
4 otherwise remains eligible for a scholarship under this
5 article. The scholarship under this paragraph shall be for
6 the same amounts and subject to the same limitations as
7 provided for scholarships under paragraph (a)(i) of this
8 section, except that the student may continue a baccalaureate
9 program provided pursuant to W.S. 21-17-125 or pursue either
10 an additional certificate or a degree and the student may use
11 this scholarship while attending a Wyoming community college
12 or the University of Wyoming.

13

14 **21-18-102. Definitions.**

15

16 (a) As used in this act:

17

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

20

21 (A) Resulting in a two (2) year associate
22 degree;

23

1 (B) Resulting in an applied baccalaureate
2 degree in accordance with W.S. 21-17-125; or

3
4 (C) Which may be transferred to an accredited
5 four (4) year college or university.†

6
7 **21-18-202. Powers and duties of the commission.**

8
9 (d) The commission shall perform the following approval
10 functions:

11
12 (i) Approve all new programs, including approval
13 of a college's submission of request for an applied
14 baccalaureate degree program to be provided pursuant to W.S.
15 21-17-125, qualifying for state funding pursuant to the
16 statewide community college strategic plan developed under
17 subsection (h) of this section;

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

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

6

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

11

12 (A) Academic programs, including applied
13 baccalaureate degree programs provided pursuant to W.S.
14 21-17-125 at each community college;

15

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

18

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

21

22 (D) Remedial and continuing education
23 programs responding to needs of students, employers and the

1 state workforce, including program access through outreach or
2 coordinated electronic system technology.†

3

4 **Section 4.**

5

6 (a) The University of Wyoming, community colleges and
7 the community college commission shall evaluate the funding,
8 other implementation needs and appropriate timeframe to:

9

10 (i) Establish health care provider programs at
11 community colleges. The commission, university and colleges
12 may consider potential undergraduate and postgraduate health
13 care provider programs under this paragraph;

14

15 (ii) Re-establish a career and technical training
16 program by the University of Wyoming;

17

18 (iii) Establish a baccalaureate program in
19 education at Central Wyoming community college.

20

21 (b) The university and community college commission
22 shall consult with the department of workforce services, the
23 department of education, the economically needed diversity

1 options for Wyoming executive council and Wyoming business
2 council regarding the effect the programs specified in
3 subsection (a) of this section could have on economic
4 development and diversification efforts in Wyoming. The
5 university and community college commission shall report the
6 results of the study under subsection (a) of this section,
7 including any responses by the entities specified in this
8 subsection and recommendations of the university and
9 community college commission, to the joint education interim
10 committee not later than September 1, 2019. The joint
11 education interim committee shall sponsor legislation
12 implementing recommendations of the university and commission
13 as it determines appropriate for consideration in the 2020
14 budget session of the legislature.

15

16 **Section 5.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

17

18

(END)