

SENATE FILE NO. SF0077

Career and technical training grants.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hastert, Landen and Von Flatern
and Representative(s) Connolly, Jaggi and
Roscoe

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to labor and employment; establishing a
2 career and technical training scholarship program in the
3 department of workforce services; providing definitions;
4 providing for reimbursement of grants as specified;
5 requiring rulemaking; providing an appropriation; and
6 providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 27-15-101 through 27-15-105 are
11 created to read:

12

13

CHAPTER 15

14

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

15

16

ARTICLE 1

1 CAREER AND TECHNICAL TRAINING GRANTS

2

3 **27-15-101. Definitions.**

4

5 (a) As used in this article:

6

7 (i) "Approved career and technical training
8 provider" means:

9

10 (A) Wyoming community colleges, the
11 University of Wyoming, boards of cooperative educational
12 services, private post secondary educational institutions
13 and private schools or organizations providing career and
14 technical training in Wyoming which are licensed or
15 registered under W.S. 21-2-401 through 21-2-407;

16

17 (B) Training facilities and entities
18 approved by and registered with the office of
19 apprenticeship, United States department of labor.

20

21 (ii) "Career and technical training" means
22 training through an approved training career and technical
23 training provider that develops or enhances the skills of
24 an individual for specific careers that are based on the

1 workforce needs of the state as identified by the
2 department;

3

4 (iii) "Career readiness score" means qualifying
5 scores on a multilevel career readiness preinstructional
6 assessment tool, preapproved by the department, to qualify
7 an individual's level of proficiency in the following
8 measurable work-ready skills:

9

10 (A) Reading for information;

11

12 (B) Applied mathematics;

13

14 (C) Locating information;

15

16 (D) Any additional skills necessary to meet
17 business and industry skill demand.

18

19 (iv) "Department" means the department of
20 workforce services.

21

22 **27-15-102. Career and technical training grants**
23 **established.**

24

1 (a) The department shall, by rule and regulation,
2 establish and administer a program to provide training
3 grants for the training of persons participating in a
4 career and technical training program.

5

6 (b) The purpose of the career and technical training
7 grant program is to provide career and technical training
8 grants to develop or enhance the skills of Wyoming's
9 workforce based on current, projected or emerging labor
10 shortages in the Wyoming economy.

11

12 (c) The department is authorized to promulgate rules
13 and regulations for the purpose of implementing this
14 article. All rules and regulations shall be promulgated in
15 consultation with training providers and employers. No
16 grants shall be awarded under this article until adoption
17 of final rules pursuant to this subsection.

18

19 (d) The department may receive donations from
20 foundations or other private sources. Any such funds
21 received shall be deposited into a separate account and are
22 continuously appropriated to the department, which may
23 distribute those funds in accordance with the provisions of
24 this article.

1

2 (e) The following shall not be reimbursed under this
3 article:

4

5 (i) Services eligible to be paid for by another
6 public or private program;

7

8 (ii) Services historically paid for by another
9 program or from another source;

10

11 (iii) Continuing education training in an
12 applicant's current trade.

13

14 **27-15-103. Career and technical training grants;**
15 **eligibility.**

16

17 (a) Under the career and technical training grant
18 program, subject to availability of funds as determined by
19 the legislature, the state shall provide a grant pursuant
20 to this article to any trainee who has been accepted by and
21 enrolls in an approved training program, and who meets the
22 following qualifications:

23

1 (i) The trainee has demonstrated twelve (12)
2 months Wyoming residence as defined in W.S.
3 22-1-102(a)(xxx);

4

5 (ii) The trainee has:

6

7 (A) Graduated from high school or has
8 obtained a general equivalency diploma in accordance with
9 rules adopted by the department of education pursuant to
10 W.S. 21-16-1308(b)(iv); and

11

12 (B) Has earned the baseline career
13 readiness score as preapproved by the department under this
14 article for the type of training to be undertaken.
15 However, the department may provide by rule and regulation
16 for an application and approval process using alternative
17 criteria that are the functional equivalent of the career
18 readiness score.

19

20 (b) No trainee shall be eligible for a grant under
21 this article for more than the equivalent of two (2) years.
22 No trainee shall be eligible for a grant under this article
23 for any period commencing after four (4) calendar years
24 following the trainee's initial eligibility. For purposes

1 of this subsection, a trainee's initial eligibility shall
2 be deemed to commence on the program start date identified
3 on the application or the date the program actually begins,
4 whichever is earlier. The department shall by rule and
5 regulation establish exceptions to this subsection for
6 military service, religious service and other good cause
7 shown.

8

9 (c) A trainee is not eligible for a grant under this
10 article if he:

11

12 (i) Is not a United States citizen or a
13 permanent resident alien who meets the definition of an
14 eligible noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements or
15 requirements of a subsequent similar federal enactment;

16

17 (ii) Has not complied with United States
18 selective service system requirements for registration, if
19 the requirements are applicable to the trainee;

20

21 (iii) Is in default on a federal Title IV
22 education loan. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a
23 trainee who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this
24 article and has fully repaid a defaulted loan or is no

1 longer in default, from receiving a grant after the default
2 is cured;

3

4 (iv) Owes a refund under a federal Title IV
5 trainee financial aid program or a subsequently enacted
6 similar federal student financial aid program, or a student
7 financial aid program administered through the state.
8 Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a trainee who is
9 otherwise eligible for a grant under this article and has
10 fully paid the refund owed, from receiving a grant after
11 paying the refund owed;

12

13 (v) Is incarcerated;

14

15 (vi) Is not eligible to hold a license or is
16 otherwise disqualified to be employed in the occupation for
17 which the training is sought;

18

19 (vii) Has been the recipient of more than two
20 (2) semesters of the Hathaway scholarship during the five
21 (5) year period before the date of application; or

22

23 (viii) Does not otherwise qualify under this
24 article for a grant.

1

2 (d) An eligible trainee under the age of twenty-one
3 (21) may receive up to the equivalent of fifty percent
4 (50%) of the Hathaway performance scholarship award
5 pursuant to W.S. 21-16-1304. An eligible trainee age
6 twenty-one (21) or older may receive up to the equivalent
7 of one hundred percent (100%) of the Hathaway performance
8 scholarship.

9

10 (e) The department shall pay the cost of an eligible
11 applicant's initial career readiness tests. Any retesting
12 to improve an applicant's score shall be at the applicant's
13 expense.

14

15 **27-15-104. Career and technical training grants;**
16 **agreement; remedies upon breach; technical assistance.**

17

18 (a) Grant payments shall be made directly to an
19 approved career and technical training provider. Grantees
20 shall enter into a contract with the department providing
21 that the trainee shall work in Wyoming in the trade for
22 which the trainee receives training for the period provided
23 in the department's rules. Commitment duration shall be
24 based on the value of the training opportunity, shall be

1 commensurate with the magnitude of the grant and shall not
2 be less than the length of the grantee's training program
3 or two (2) years, whichever is less. For purposes of this
4 subsection, "work in Wyoming" means that the grantee is
5 employed for at least eighty percent (80%) of the grantee's
6 paid work hours in the trade for which the grant was
7 awarded.

8

9 (b) If a trainee breaches the agreement required by
10 subsection (a) of this section, the trainee shall repay
11 that portion of all funds for the corresponding contract
12 period provided on behalf of the trainee under the
13 agreement, together with costs of collection and attorney
14 fees. The department shall by rule and regulation
15 establish exceptions to this subsection for military
16 service, religious service and other good cause shown.

17

18 (c) The department shall provide technical assistance
19 to prospective trainees in the application and reporting
20 requirements established by department rules.

21

22 **27-15-105. Legislative report.**

23

1 The department shall report by June 1, 2011 to the joint
2 education interim committee, the joint labor, health and
3 social services interim committee and the joint
4 appropriations interim committee on the career and
5 technical training grant program, including industry and
6 trainee participation, numbers of persons completing
7 training, numbers of former trainees working in Wyoming,
8 total grant expenditures, per trainee grant expenditures
9 and administrative expenditures.

10

11 **Section 2.** There is appropriated fifty thousand
12 dollars (\$50,000.00) from the general fund to the
13 department of workforce services. This appropriation shall
14 be for the period beginning with the effective date of this
15 act and ending June 30, 2012. This appropriation shall
16 only be expended for the purpose of administering the
17 career and technical assistance grant program established
18 by this act, including initial career readiness testing and
19 promotional and technical assistance activities for the
20 program. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
21 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
22 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
23 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
24 by law on June 30, 2012. This appropriation shall be

1 included in the department's 2013-2014 standard biennial
2 budget request.

3

4 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
5 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
6 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
7 Constitution.

8

9

(END)