

SENATE FILE NO. SF0118

Career and technical training grants.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hastert, Cooper, Martin, Rothfuss
and Von Flatern and Representative(s)
Connolly, Craft, Freeman, Krone and Loucks

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 appropriations; 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 any Hathaway scholarship under W.S.
21 21-16-1301 through 21-16-1310 during the five (5) year
22 period before the date of application; or

23

1 (viii) Does not otherwise qualify under this
2 article for a grant.

3

4 (d) The department shall pay the cost of an eligible
5 applicant's initial career readiness tests. Any retesting
6 to improve an applicant's score shall be at the applicant's
7 expense.

8

9 **27-15-104. Career and technical training grants;
10 agreement; remedies upon breach; technical assistance.**

11

12 (a) Grant payments shall be made directly to an
13 approved career and technical training provider. Grantees
14 shall enter into a contract with the department providing
15 that the trainee shall work in Wyoming in the trade for
16 which the trainee receives training for the period provided
17 in the department's rules. Commitment duration shall be
18 based on the value of the training opportunity, shall be
19 commensurate with the magnitude of the grant and shall not
20 be less than the length of the grantee's training program
21 or two (2) years, whichever is less. For purposes of this
22 subsection, "work in Wyoming" means that the grantee is
23 employed for at least eighty percent (80%) of the grantee's

1 paid work hours in the trade for which the grant was
2 awarded.

3

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

12

13 (c) The department shall provide technical assistance
14 to prospective trainees in the application and reporting
15 requirements established by department rules.

16

17 **27-15-105. Legislative report.**

18

19 The department shall report by June 1, 2012 to the joint
20 education interim committee, the joint labor, health and
21 social services interim committee and the joint
22 appropriations interim committee on the career and
23 technical training grant program, including industry and
24 trainee participation, numbers of persons completing

1 training, numbers of former trainees working in Wyoming,
2 total grant expenditures, per trainee grant expenditures
3 and administrative expenditures.

4

5 **Section 2.**

6

7 (a) There is appropriated five hundred thousand
8 dollars (\$500,000.00) from the general fund to the
9 department of workforce services. This appropriation shall
10 be for the period beginning with the effective date of this
11 act and ending June 30, 2012. This appropriation shall
12 only be expended for the purpose of the career and
13 technical training grants established under W.S. 27-15-102
14 created by this act. Grants shall not exceed one thousand
15 six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00) per year per eligible
16 grantee. Upon the award of a career and technical training
17 grant, the department shall set aside and encumber the full
18 amount and cost of any grant awarded for the entire period
19 of the grant. The department shall establish by rule and
20 regulation when an awarded grant shall terminate. Upon
21 termination of a grant, any unexpended portion of the grant
22 shall be available to fund additional grants as provided
23 under W.S. 27-15-102 created by this act. Notwithstanding
24 any other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be

1 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
2 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
3 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
4 2012. Any obligated funds shall revert after June 30, 2012
5 upon the termination of the grant which encumbered those
6 funds.

7

8 (b) There is appropriated fifty thousand dollars
9 (\$50,000.00) from the general fund to the department of
10 workforce services. This appropriation shall be for the
11 period beginning with the effective date of this act and
12 ending June 30, 2012. This appropriation shall only be
13 expended for the purpose of administering the career and
14 technical assistance grant program established by this act,
15 including initial career readiness testing and promotional
16 and technical assistance activities for the program.
17 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
18 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
19 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
20 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
21 by law on June 30, 2012.

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

5

6

(END)