

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0103

Merit career-technical scholarships.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Hunt, Allen and Berger and
Senator(s) Driskill and Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to career-technical education; establishing
2 a merit career-technical education student scholarship
3 endowment fund and an expenditure account; providing
4 funding for future scholarships; providing for
5 redistribution of federal coal lease bonus revenues;
6 providing for a task force to study and prepare plans for
7 implementation of a career-technical education student
8 scholarship program; providing an appropriation; and
9 providing for effective dates.

10

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

12

13 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-16-1701 is created to read:

14

15

ARTICLE 17

1 MERIT CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

2 ACCOUNT

3
4 **21-16-1701. Merit career-technical education student**
5 **scholarship expenditure account created; use of funds.**
6

7 (a) The merit career-technical education student
8 scholarship expenditure account is created to consist of
9 earnings from the career-technical education student
10 scholarship endowment fund established under W.S.
11 9-4-204(u)(viii) and such other funds appropriated by the
12 legislature to the expenditure account. Monies within the
13 expenditure account shall be continuously appropriated to
14 the state treasurer for distribution as prescribed by law.
15

16 (b) No funds shall be expended from the account
17 except upon further act of the legislature.
18

19 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-4-204(u) by creating a new
20 paragraph (viii), 9-4-601(b)(i)(intro), (iv)(intro) and by
21 creating a new paragraph (vi) and 21-16-1201 by creating a
22 new subsection (e) are amended to read:
23

1 **9-4-204. Funds established; use thereof.**

2

3 (u) Other funds defined as follows shall be
4 classified by the state auditor pursuant to subsections (s)
5 and (t) of this section:

6

7 (viii) Merit career-technical education student
8 scholarship endowment fund - to consist of funds
9 appropriated or designated to the fund by law, or by gift
10 from whatever source. In accordance with Article 15,
11 Section 20, of the Wyoming Constitution, monies within the
12 fund shall be inviolate and may be invested in the same
13 manner as other permanent funds of the state. Earnings from
14 investment of monies within the fund shall be distributed
15 and expended as provided by law.

16

17 **9-4-601. Distribution and use; funds, accounts,**
18 **cities and towns benefited; exception for bonus payments.**

19

20 (b) The state treasurer shall ascertain and withhold
21 all bonus payments received from the federal government
22 attributable to coal, oil shale or geothermal leases of

1 federal land within Wyoming and shall distribute it as
2 follows:

3
4 (i) Except as provided by paragraph (vi) of this
5 subsection, fifty percent (50%), the first seven million
6 five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000.00) of which
7 shall be distributed as follows, and any amount in excess
8 of seven million five hundred thousand dollars
9 (\$7,500,000.00) per year shall be deposited into the school
10 capital construction account established under W.S.
11 21-15-111(a) (i):

12
13 (iv) And except as provided by paragraph (vi) of
14 this subsection:

15
16 (vi) Effective July 1, 2015, and until such time
17 as one hundred twenty-five million dollars
18 (\$125,000,000.00) has been ascertained and withheld under
19 this paragraph, and notwithstanding paragraphs (i) and (iv)
20 of this subsection, one hundred percent (100%) of the first
21 one hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$125,000,000.00)
22 shall be deposited into the merit career-technical
23 education student scholarship endowment fund established

1 under W.S. 9-4-204(u)(viii). Thereafter, all amounts in
2 excess of one hundred twenty-five million dollars
3 (\$125,000,000.00) ascertained and withheld under this
4 paragraph shall be distributed in accordance with
5 paragraphs (i) and (iv) of this subsection.

6
7 **21-16-1201. Excellence in higher education endowment**
8 **fund; Hathaway student scholarship endowment fund; merit**
9 **career-technical education student scholarship endowment**
10 **fund; distributions by state treasurer; legislative**
11 **restrictions.**

12
13 (e) In addition to the endowment funds established
14 under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the merit
15 career-technical education student scholarship endowment
16 fund is established as provided in W.S. 9-4-204(u)(viii).
17 Commencing with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015,
18 earnings from the merit career-technical education student
19 scholarship endowment fund established under this
20 subsection shall be transferred by the state treasurer to
21 the merit career-technical education student scholarship
22 expenditure account created by W.S. 21-16-1701.

23

1 **Section 3.**

2

3 (a) There is created a task force on merit career-
4 technical education scholarships to consist of two (2)
5 members of the Wyoming house of representatives, appointed
6 by the speaker of the house, and two (2) members of the
7 Wyoming senate, appointed by the president of the senate,
8 together with the following members appointed by the
9 governor:

10

11 (i) One (1) representative of community
12 colleges;

13

14 (ii) One (1) representative of private career-
15 technical education institutions operating in Wyoming;

16

17 (iii) Two (2) representatives from business and
18 industry;

19

20 (iv) One (1) representative of the public at-
21 large;

22

1 (v) One (1) representative from the Wyoming
2 public schools career-technical education community;

3

4 (vi) One (1) representative from the Wyoming
5 department of education career-technical education program;

6

7 (vii) One (1) member of the state board of
8 education.

9

10 (b) The task force shall study the establishment of a
11 student merit career-technical education scholarship
12 program to be funded by the earnings from the merit career-
13 technical education student scholarship account created by
14 this act. The goal of the task force shall be to make
15 recommendations to the Wyoming legislature for future
16 legislation necessary for a student merit career-technical
17 education scholarship program to make career-technical
18 education post secondary programs in Wyoming as free as
19 possible to Wyoming high school graduates. The task force
20 shall consider and make recommendations as to the
21 following:

22

1 (i) The amount of tuition, fees and other
2 education related payments which can be sustained from
3 anticipated earnings from the merit career-technical
4 education student scholarship account;

5

6 (ii) Career-technical institutions to be
7 eligible for student scholarships awarded under this act,
8 including public and private institutions, with
9 consideration given to any constitutional limitations
10 governing the expenditure of public funds for scholarship
11 purposes;

12

13 (iii) Scholarship qualification requirements and
14 requirements to maintain a scholarship including
15 consideration of high school course completion
16 requirements, performance levels on high school assessments
17 and post secondary entry examinations, and academic
18 progress requirements for scholarship eligibility
19 maintenance;

20

21 (iv) Reentry requirements for students failing
22 to maintain eligibility requirements of post secondary
23 institutions;

1

2 (v) Waiver provisions, if any, regarding any of
3 the entry or continuing scholarship requirements;

4

5 (vi) Administrative oversight of the program;

6

7 (vii) An implementation date for the program;

8

9 (viii) Additional funding for the program.

10

11 (c) In addition to subsection (b) of this section,
12 the recommendation of the task force shall include a
13 requirement that the department of education collect such
14 information from school districts, Wyoming community
15 colleges and technical schools operating in this state, as
16 determined necessary by the department of work force
17 services to evaluate the impacts of the scholarship program
18 created under this act on state employment and wages. The
19 evaluation by the department of work force services shall
20 be based upon studied control groups of program
21 participants and nonparticipants and shall be reported
22 annually to the joint appropriations and education interim
23 committees, identifying program participants and student

1 control groups. The report shall also identify the return
2 on investment of the scholarship program, improve student
3 career counseling and incorporate representative employer
4 assessment of the skills competency of program and control
5 participants.

6

7 (d) The task force may retain consultants as
8 necessary to fulfill its duties under this act. The task
9 force shall be staffed by the legislative service office.
10 State agencies shall provide information to the task force
11 as requested in order to fulfill its duties. The
12 legislative members of the task force shall receive
13 compensation, per diem and travel expenses in the manner
14 and amount prescribed by W.S. 28-5-101. Task force members
15 who are not legislators and are not state employees shall
16 not receive salaries, but shall receive the per diem and
17 mileage paid members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S.
18 28-5-101 for each day of actual task force meetings and
19 travel to those meetings.

20

21 (e) The task force shall report its initial findings
22 and recommendations to the governor, the joint

1 appropriations and education interim committees by November
2 1, 2015.

3
4 (f) This task force shall cease to exist on March 31,
5 2016.

6
7 **Section 4.** There is appropriated from the general
8 fund to the legislative service office fifty thousand
9 dollars (\$50,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
10 fund the merit career-technical education student
11 scholarship task force in carrying out its duties under
12 this act. Prior to making any distribution to the merit
13 career-technical education student scholarship endowment
14 fund account pursuant to W.S. 9-4-601(b)(vi) as created by
15 section 2 of this act, the state treasurer shall first
16 deposit to the general fund fifty thousand dollars
17 (\$50,000.00) from those funds as repayment of this
18 appropriation.

19

20 **Section 5.**

21

22 (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this
23 section, this act is effective July 1, 2015.

1

2 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section,
3 sections 3 and 4 of this act are effective immediately upon
4 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
5 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
6 Constitution.

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8

(END)