

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0174

Merit career-technical scholarships.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Hunt

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 a committee
5 to study and prepare plans for implementation of a career-
6 technical education student scholarship program; providing
7 an appropriation and for redistribution of federal coal
8 lease bonus revenues; and providing for effective dates.

9

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

11

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

13

14

ARTICLE 17

15

MERIT CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

16

ACCOUNT

17

1 **21-16-1701. Merit career-technical education student**
2 **scholarship expenditure account created; use of funds.**

3

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

12

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

17

18 **9-4-204. Funds established; use thereof.**

19

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

23

1 (viii) Merit career-technical education student
2 scholarship endowment fund - to consist of funds
3 appropriated or designated to the fund by law, or by gift
4 from whatever source. In accordance with Wyoming
5 Constitution, Article 15, Section 20, monies within the
6 fund shall not be expended and may be invested in the same
7 manner as other permanent funds of the state. Earnings from
8 investment of monies within the fund shall be distributed
9 and expended as provided by law.

10
11 **9-4-601. Distribution and use; funds, accounts,**
12 **cities and towns benefited; exception for bonus payments.**

13
14 (b) The state treasurer shall ascertain and withhold
15 all bonus payments received from the federal government
16 attributable to coal, oil shale or geothermal leases of
17 federal land within Wyoming and shall distribute it as
18 follows:

19
20 (i) Except as provided by paragraph (vi) of this
21 subsection, fifty percent (50%), the first seven million
22 five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000.00) of which
23 shall be distributed as follows, and any amount in excess
24 of seven million five hundred thousand dollars

1 (\$7,500,000.00) per year shall be deposited into the school
2 capital construction account established under W.S.
3 21-15-111(a)(i):

4

5 (iv) And except as provided by paragraph (vi) of
6 this subsection:

7

8 (vi) Effective July 1, 2014, and until such time
9 as one hundred twenty-five million dollars
10 (\$125,000,000.00) has been ascertained and withheld under
11 this paragraph, and notwithstanding paragraphs (i) and (iv)
12 of this subsection, one hundred percent (100%) of the first
13 one hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$125,000,000.00)
14 shall be deposited into the merit career-technical
15 education student scholarship endowment fund established
16 under W.S. 9-4-204(u)(viii). Thereafter, all amounts in
17 excess of one hundred twenty-five million dollars
18 (\$125,000,000.00) ascertained and withheld under this
19 paragraph shall be distributed in accordance with
20 paragraphs (i) and (iv) of this subsection.

21

22 **21-16-1201. Excellence in higher education endowment**
23 **fund; Hathaway student scholarship endowment fund; merit**
24 **career-technical education student scholarship endowment**

1 fund; distributions by state treasurer; legislative
2 restrictions.

3

4 (e) In addition to the endowment funds established
5 under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the merit
6 career-technical education student scholarship endowment
7 fund is established as provided in W.S. 9-4-204(u)(viii).
8 Commencing with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014,
9 earnings from the merit career-technical education student
10 scholarship endowment fund established under this
11 subsection shall be transferred by the state treasurer to
12 the merit career-technical education student scholarship
13 expenditure account created by W.S. 21-16-1701.

14

15 **Section 3.**

16

17 (a) There is created a committee on merit career-
18 technical education scholarships to consist of two (2)
19 members of the Wyoming house of representatives, appointed
20 by the speaker of the house, and two (2) members of the
21 Wyoming senate, appointed by the president of the senate,
22 together with the following members appointed by the
23 governor:

24

1 (i) One (1) representative of community
2 colleges;

3

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

6

7 (iii) Two (2) representatives from business and
8 industry;

9

10 (iv) One (1) representative of the public at-
11 large;

12

13 (v) One (1) representative from the Wyoming K-12
14 career-technical education community;

15

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

18

19 (vii) One (1) member of the state board of
20 education.

21

22 (b) The committee shall study the establishment of a
23 student merit career-technical education scholarship
24 program to be funded by the earnings from the merit career-

1 technical education student scholarship account created by
2 this act. The goal of the committee shall be to make
3 recommendations to the Wyoming legislature for future
4 legislation necessary for a student merit career-technical
5 education scholarship program to make career-technical
6 education postsecondary programs in Wyoming as free as
7 possible to Wyoming high school graduates. The committee
8 shall consider and make recommendations as to the
9 following:

10

11 (i) The amount of tuition, fees and other
12 education related payments which can be sustained from
13 anticipated earnings from the merit career-technical
14 education student scholarship account;

15

16 (ii) Career-technical institutions to be
17 eligible for student scholarships awarded under this act,
18 including public and private institutions, with
19 consideration given to any constitutional limitations
20 governing the expenditure of public funds for scholarship
21 purposes;

22

23 (iii) Scholarship qualification requirements and
24 requirements to maintain a scholarship including

1 consideration of high school course completion
2 requirements, performance levels on high school assessments
3 and postsecondary entry examinations, and academic progress
4 requirements for scholarship eligibility maintenance;

5

6 (iv) Reentry requirements for students failing
7 to maintain eligibility requirements of postsecondary
8 institutions;

9

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

12

13 (vi) Administrative oversight of the program;

14

15 (vii) An implementation date for the program;

16

17 (viii) Additional funding for the program.

18

19 (c) In addition to subsection (b) of this section,
20 the recommendation of the committee shall include a
21 requirement that the department of education collect such
22 information from school districts, Wyoming community
23 colleges and technical schools operating in this state, as
24 determined necessary by the department of workforce

1 services to evaluate the impacts of the scholarship program
2 created under this act on state employment and wages. The
3 evaluation by the department of workforce services shall be
4 based upon studied control groups of program participants
5 and nonparticipants and shall be reported annually to the
6 joint appropriations and joint education interim
7 committees, identifying program participants and student
8 control groups. The report shall also identify the return
9 on investment of the scholarship program, improve student
10 career counseling and incorporate representative employer
11 assessment of the skills competency of program and control
12 participants.

13

14 (d) The committee may retain consultants as necessary
15 to fulfill its duties under this act. The committee shall
16 be staffed by the legislative service office. State
17 agencies shall provide information to the committee as
18 requested in order to fulfill its duties. The legislative
19 members of the committee shall receive compensation, per
20 diem and travel expenses in the manner and amount
21 prescribed by W.S. 28-5-101. Committee members who are not
22 legislators and are not state employees shall receive the
23 per diem and mileage paid members of the Wyoming

1 legislature under W.S. 28-5-101 for each day of actual
2 committee meetings and travel to those meetings.

3

4 (e) The committee shall report its initial findings
5 and recommendations to the governor, the joint
6 appropriations and joint education interim committees by
7 November 1, 2014.

8

9 (f) This section is repealed March 31, 2015.

10

11 **Section 4.** There is appropriated from the general
12 fund to the legislative service office fifty thousand
13 dollars (\$50,000.00) or as much thereof as is necessary to
14 fund the merit career-technical education student
15 scholarship committee in carrying out its duties under this
16 act. Prior to making any distribution to the merit career-
17 technical education student scholarship endowment fund
18 account pursuant to W.S. 9-4-601(b)(vi) as created by
19 section 2 of this act, the state treasurer shall first
20 deposit to the general fund fifty thousand dollars
21 (\$50,000.00) from those funds as repayment of this
22 appropriation.

23

24 **Section 5.**

1

2 (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this
3 section, this act is effective July 1, 2014.

4

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

10

11

(END)