

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0176

Veterans tuition waiver program requirements.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Walters and Nicholas, B.
and Senator(s) Landen and Perkins

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to veterans; specifying additional
2 requirements for eligibility under the veterans tuition
3 waiver program; providing applicability; and providing for
4 an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-14-106(b), (f) and (g) is amended
9 to read:

10

11 **19-14-106. Free tuition and fees for education of war**
12 **orphans and veterans; definitions.**

13

14 (b) The state or any political educational
15 subdivision shall provide free tuition, matriculation and

1 other fees for up to a total of eight (8) semesters of
2 study to all eligible persons who are residents of this
3 state and who are attending or may attend ~~any state~~
4 ~~institutions in elementary, secondary and college grades,~~
5 ~~business colleges, state vocational training schools or~~
6 ~~other educational institutions of this state where courses~~
7 ~~of instruction are provided in subjects which would tend to~~
8 ~~enable the eligible persons to engage in any useful trade,~~
9 ~~occupation or profession~~ the University of Wyoming or a
10 Wyoming community college for the purpose of attaining a
11 baccalaureate or associate degree.

12

13 (f) Any person who is a Vietnam veteran, not
14 presently receiving education benefits under the
15 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, an
16 overseas combat veteran, a combat veteran surviving spouse
17 or a combat veteran dependent shall receive free tuition
18 and fees for up to a total of ten (10) semesters of study
19 at the University of Wyoming or any Wyoming community
20 college for the purpose of attaining a baccalaureate or
21 associate degree. The University of Wyoming and all Wyoming
22 community colleges shall cooperate to ensure that a total
23 of not more than ten (10) semesters is provided under this

1 section to any recipient. No person shall be eligible for
2 the benefits provided under this section for any semester
3 commencing more than eight (8) academic years after the
4 semester in which the person initially receives benefits
5 under this section. The institution in which the student
6 enrolls shall grant exceptions to the requirements of this
7 subsection for military service, religious service or other
8 good cause shown, which exceptions shall be consistent with
9 rules promulgated by the Wyoming department of education
10 for the Hathaway scholarship program under W.S.
11 21-16-1303(d).

12

13 (g) In order to qualify for the benefit under this
14 section, a person claiming eligibility as an overseas
15 combat veteran, combat veteran surviving spouse or combat
16 veteran dependent shall enroll at the University of Wyoming
17 or a Wyoming community college and shall file with the
18 university or college an affidavit under penalty of perjury
19 stating the person has exhausted all educational assistance
20 funding from the United States department of veterans
21 affairs for which the person is eligible. A combat veteran
22 dependent shall be under twenty-two (22) years of age at

1 the time of enrollment at the University of Wyoming or a
2 Wyoming community college.

3

4 **Section 2.**

5

6 (a) This act shall only apply to eligible persons
7 applying for free tuition, matriculation and other fees
8 after the effective date of this act.

9

10 (b) Any person receiving free tuition, matriculation
11 and other fees under W.S. 19-14-106 prior to the effective
12 date of this act shall continue to receive these benefits
13 until the person is no longer eligible or the funding is
14 exhausted.

15

16 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2017.

17

18 (END)