

SENATE FILE NO. SF0030

Wyoming's investment in veteran's mental health.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; establishing the Wyoming
2 veteran loan repayment program; specifying eligibility;
3 providing for loan repayment for veterans who provide
4 mental health services within this state to veterans;
5 providing a definition; requiring reporting; amending a
6 prior appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-16-2001 is created to read:

11

ARTICLE 20

12

WYOMING VETERAN LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

13

14

1 **21-16-2001. Wyoming veteran loan repayment program;**
2 **eligibility criteria; procedures; reporting.**

3

4 (a) The Wyoming veteran loan repayment program is
5 created to be administered by the University of Wyoming.

6

7 (b) To qualify for a loan under this section, the
8 applicant shall:

9

10 (i) Be a United States citizen or a permanent
11 resident alien who meets the definition of an eligible
12 noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements or
13 requirements of a subsequent similar federal enactment;

14

15 (ii) Be a veteran;

16

17 (iii) Be enrolled in good standing in a course
18 of study leading to a masters degree in social work or
19 counseling or a doctorate degree in psychology at the
20 University of Wyoming.

21

22 (c) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated
23 for this program, loans under this section may be granted

1 to qualified applicants to pay the cost of attendance for
2 the academic programs listed in paragraph (b)(iii) of this
3 section. For purposes of this subsection, "cost of
4 attendance" means the sum cost of tuition, mandatory fees,
5 room and board, books and supplies, travel and personal
6 expenses to attend the University of Wyoming as determined
7 annually by the University of Wyoming.

8

9 (d) Any federal, state or other grants or funding,
10 other than loans received by the applicant for the cost of
11 attendance for a qualifying academic program shall be
12 prioritized by the University of Wyoming and applied before
13 a loan provided under this section. A loan provided under
14 this section shall not exceed the cost of attendance for a
15 qualifying academic program, reduced by the amounts of any
16 federal, state or other grants or funding received by the
17 applicant.

18

19 (e) A recipient of a loan under this section may
20 repay the loan without monetary payment by working not less
21 than twenty-five percent (25%) of his working hours
22 providing mental health services within this state to
23 veterans. To qualify for repayment under this subsection,

1 work shall be performed within the minimum amount of time
2 necessary to repay the loan, plus three (3) years, which
3 shall begin with the calendar month following the month in
4 which the student completed the academic degree program.

5

6 (f) Any recipient of a loan under this section who
7 fails:

8

9 (i) To complete the academic program for which
10 the loan was provided shall commence monetary repayment of
11 the loan not later than forty-five (45) days after the
12 recipient leaves the academic program;

13

14 (ii) To obtain employment that provides mental
15 health services within this state to veterans within two
16 hundred forty (240) days after successfully completing the
17 academic program, shall commence monetary repayment of the
18 loan within two hundred eighty-five (285) days after
19 completion of the academic program.

20

21 (g) Loan repayment options under this section may be
22 deferred for a period not more than five (5) years while a
23 loan recipient is serving on full-time active duty in the

1 armed forces as defined by W.S. 8-1-102(a)(xxi), the army
2 national guard or the air national guard.

3

4 (h) The University of Wyoming shall have the powers
5 and duties to implement this section and shall establish
6 terms and conditions of loans issued under this section,
7 including:

8

9 (i) Interest rates and loan terms;

10

11 (ii) The form and process for loan application,
12 review and award;

13

14 (iii) Criteria under which students may be
15 relieved from having to repay loans and interest thereon,
16 in whole or in part, where the requirement to repay would
17 cause undue hardship;

18

19 (iv) Criteria for determining the cost of
20 attendance as used in establishing the loan amount for the
21 academic programs listed in paragraph (b)(iii) of this
22 section, based upon each semester or summer school session
23 of full or part-time program attendance.

1

2 (j) Funding of the loan program established under
3 this section shall be by appropriation of the legislature.

4

5 (k) Repayment of loans and interest thereon shall be
6 credited to the school foundation program account.

7

8 (m) The University of Wyoming shall annually review
9 the loan program established under this section and report
10 to the governor and the legislature in accordance with W.S.
11 9-2-1014 regarding program results, funds received and
12 loans issued during the preceding academic year, together
13 with the status of all outstanding loan commitments and
14 repayments under the program.

15

16 (n) This program created by this section shall expire
17 effective June 30, 2035.

18

19 (o) As used in this section "veteran" means any
20 person who served in the United States armed forces as
21 defined by W.S. 8-1-102(a)(xxi), the army national guard or
22 air national guard and who was discharged or released under
23 conditions other than dishonorable.

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
1				
2	Section 2. 2024 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 118,			
3	Section 2, Section 067 is amended to read:			
4				
5	Section 067. UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING			
6	PROGRAM			
7	State Aid ^{1., 2., 3., 4., 5.,}			
8	^{12., 13., <u>15.</u>}	401,227,647		401,227,647
9	School of Energy Res. ^{6.,}			
10	^{7., 8., 9.}	23,857,808	19,000,000 S13	42,857,808
11	Tier 1 Engineering	18,584,703		18,584,703
12	NCAR MOU	1,528,316		1,528,316
13	Endowments & Matching ^{10., 11.,}			
14	^{12., 14.}	<u>39,500,000</u>		<u>39,500,000</u>
15	TOTALS	484,698,474	0	503,698,474
16				
17	AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES			
18	Full Time	0		
19	Part Time	<u>0</u>		
20	TOTAL	0		
21				
22	1. Of this general fund appropriation, three million dollars			
23	(\$3,000,000.00) is to fund graduate assistantship stipends. This			

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
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1 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other
 2 purpose.

3

4 2. Of this general fund appropriation, two million five hundred
 5 thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) is for building artificial
 6 intelligence expertise. Expenditure of this appropriation is
 7 conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar (\$1.00) of
 8 appropriated general funds to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of
 9 matching funds from any person. For purposes of this footnote, "person"
 10 includes an individual, partnership, corporation, joint stock company
 11 or any other association or entity, excluding all public entities. It
 12 is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be
 13 included in the University of Wyoming's standard budget for the
 14 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

15

16 3. Of this general fund appropriation, one million dollars
 17 (\$1,000,000.00) is to increase the library collections' biennial
 18 budget. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
 19 other purpose.

20

21 4. (a) Of this general fund appropriation, ten million dollars
 22 (\$10,000,000.00) is appropriated for the purpose of providing a state
 23 match for funds received by the University of Wyoming from athletic

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
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1 booster organizations or persons donating funds to be used solely for
 2 athletic programs. This appropriation shall:

3

4 (i) Be retained by the state treasurer for distribution in
 5 accordance with the provisions of this footnote;

6

7 (ii) Be expended for the purposes of:

8

9 (A) Authorized recruitment of prospective student
 10 athletes to the University of Wyoming and expenses associated with
 11 participation in intercollegiate athletics including summer school
 12 attendance, nutrition, tutoring, team travel and costs directly related
 13 to participation in competition;

14

15 (B) Athletic training equipment.

16

17 (iii) Not be used for salaries or capital construction
 18 projects;

19

20 (iv) To the extent funds are available, be matched on a
 21 quarterly basis by the state treasurer for each cash or cash equivalent
 22 contribution actually received by the University of Wyoming for the
 23 purposes specified in this footnote for the period beginning July 1,
 24 2024 and ending June 30, 2026 by distributing to the University of

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
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1 Wyoming an amount equal to the amount of qualifying contributions for
 2 the quarter.

3

4 (b) The appropriation specified in subsection (a) of this
 5 footnote shall not be transferred or expended for any purpose not
 6 specified in this footnote and any unexpended, unobligated funds
 7 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on
 8 June 30, 2026.

9

10 5. Of this general fund appropriation, two hundred thousand dollars
 11 (\$200,000.00) is to support the University of Wyoming rodeo team.

12

13 6. Of this other funds appropriation, seventeen million dollars
 14 (\$17,000,000.00)S13 is for demonstrations of coal solvent extraction
 15 and a coal-derived asphalt road. This appropriation shall not be
 16 transferred or expended for any other purpose. It is the intent of the
 17 legislature that this appropriation not be included in the University
 18 of Wyoming's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal
 19 biennium.

20

21 7. Of this other funds appropriation, two million dollars
 22 (\$2,000,000.00)S13 is appropriated for the purpose of providing a state
 23 match for funds received by the University of Wyoming or donated funds
 24 to be used solely to support research, scholarships or endowments for

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
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1 the school of energy resources. Distribution of this appropriation is
 2 conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar (\$1.00) of
 3 appropriated other funds to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of
 4 matching funds from any nonstate source. This appropriation shall be
 5 retained by the state treasurer for distribution in accordance with
 6 W.S. 21-16-904. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended
 7 for any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature that this
 8 appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's standard
 9 budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

10

11 8. Of this general fund appropriation, two million dollars
 12 (\$2,000,000.00) is for building and continuing nuclear energy
 13 scholarship, research and training capacity at the University of
 14 Wyoming. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for
 15 any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature that this
 16 appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's standard
 17 budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

18

19 9. Of this general fund appropriation, seven hundred fifty thousand
 20 dollars (\$750,000.00) is to administer, develop and implement an
 21 incentive innovator competition related to lithium extraction,
 22 development or use. This appropriation shall not be transferred or
 23 expended for any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
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1 that this appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's
 2 standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

3

4 10. (a) Of this general fund appropriation, twelve million dollars
 5 (\$12,000,000.00) is appropriated to provide a state match for funds
 6 received by the University of Wyoming or donated funds in accordance
 7 with the following:

8

9 (i) Not less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000.00) is
 10 conditioned upon a match for a permanent endowment under W.S. 21-16-901
 11 through 21-16-904. All state matching distributions from the account
 12 are appropriated solely to support endowments for priorities identified
 13 and approved by the University of Wyoming board of trustees;

14

15 (ii) Up to two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is
 16 conditioned upon a match for purposes of expenditures for priorities
 17 identified and approved by the University of Wyoming board of trustees.

18

19 (b) Distribution of the appropriation specified in subsection
 20 (a) of this footnote is conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio
 21 of one dollar (\$1.00) of appropriated general funds to not less than
 22 one dollar (\$1.00) of matching funds from any nonstate source. This
 23 appropriation shall be retained by the state treasurer for distribution
 24 in accordance with W.S. 21-16-904 regardless of whether the match is for

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
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1 purposes of a permanent endowment under paragraph (a)(i) of this
 2 footnote or for expenditure by the University of Wyoming under
 3 paragraph (a)(ii) of this footnote.

4

5 11. (a) Of this general fund appropriation, twenty-five million
 6 dollars (\$25,000,000.00) is appropriated to match research grants and
 7 contracts related to flow through porous media. It is the intent of
 8 the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the
 9 University of Wyoming's standard budget for the immediately succeeding
 10 fiscal biennium. This appropriation shall not be transferred or
 11 expended for any other purpose. Of this general fund appropriation,
 12 twelve million five hundred thousand dollars (\$12,500,000.00) is
 13 effective July 1, 2025, and twelve million five hundred thousand
 14 dollars (\$12,500,000.00) is effective April 1, 2026. Expenditure of
 15 this appropriation is conditioned upon the University:

16

17 (i) Securing a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar
 18 (\$1.00) of appropriated general funds to not less than one dollar
 19 (\$1.00) of matching funds from any other source;

20

21 (ii) Conducting all computational and practical research
 22 to the greatest extent reasonably possible with University of Wyoming
 23 students within Wyoming;

24

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
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1 (iii) Performing research on geologic formations and
2 energy extraction opportunities that may be found within Wyoming;

3
4 (iv) To the extent possible, developing any feasibility
5 studies, small-scale experiments or large-scale projects associated
6 with research funded by this appropriation within Wyoming.

7
8 12. No funds from this appropriation shall be expended on the office
9 of diversity, equity and inclusion at the University of Wyoming.

10
11 13. A portion of this general fund appropriation may be expended to
12 conduct the purposes of this footnote. The University of Wyoming shall
13 review opportunities, feasibility and costs associated with expanding
14 medical education and training for Wyoming students, including broader
15 use of WICHE, expanded agreements with WWAMI and new relationships with
16 public universities in the western regional United States. The results
17 of the review and recommendations shall be reported to the joint
18 education interim committee and joint appropriations committee not
19 later than October 1, 2024.

20
21 14. Of this general fund appropriation, two million five hundred
22 thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) is appropriated for the purpose of
23 providing a state match for funds received by the University of Wyoming
24 or donated funds to be used solely for support for excellence in

APPROPRIATION FOR	GENERAL FUND \$	FEDERAL FUNDS \$	OTHER FUNDS \$	TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$
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1 research, education and extension in ranch and rangeland management,
 2 agronomy and soil science. Distribution of this appropriation is
 3 conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar (\$1.00) of
 4 appropriated general funds to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of
 5 matching funds from any other source. This appropriation shall be
 6 retained by the state treasurer for distribution in accordance with
 7 W.S. 21-16-904. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207,
 8 any unexpended, unobligated monies from this appropriation shall not
 9 revert until June 30, 2030.

10
 11 15. Of this general fund appropriation, two hundred fifty thousand
 12 dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be used for the Wyoming veteran loan
 13 repayment program established under W.S. 21-16-2001. This appropriation
 14 shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. It is the
 15 intent of the legislature that this appropriation be included in the
 16 standard budget request for the University of Wyoming for the
 17 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

18
 19 **Section 3.** Section 2 of this act shall be adjusted
 20 and renumbered as necessary for any changes made to 2025
 21 House Bill/Senate File 1 during the 2025 General Session as
 22 enacted into law.

1

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

6

7

(END)