
HB 109 – WYOMING WORKS FOR TOMORROW

TALKING POINTS – JANUARY 16, 2023

- HB 109 aligns two very important programs that aim to meet Wyoming’s workforce needs (Wyoming Works) and invest in the state’s adult learners (Wyoming’s Tomorrow Scholarship Program.)
- What it funds:
 - **\$75M** into the Wyoming’s Tomorrow (2022 HB 31) endowment fund
 - **\$5M** into the WT endowment fund conditioned upon a match from any private or nonpublic funding source. Amendment language was provided in the House Committee by the Governor’s Office to provide for the charitable contribution language and IRS considerations.
 - **\$15M** into the Wyoming Works Program Account
 - **\$5M** to the Wyoming Works Student Grant Account

WHAT IS WYOMING WORKS?

Wyoming Works (2019 SF 122) provides programs and resources for adult students to learn a skill and secure employment. The program makes available individual grants for students enrolling in approved programs at a Wyoming community college. It also provides a mechanism for colleges to apply for resources in support of the creation of high-demand programs. It has two primary components:

- Technical and trades program expansion/start-up funding for the community colleges
- Grant program designed to encourage students to participate in identified credential programs.

Here are the basics of the program:

- The legislation allocated \$5 million to support the program.
 - Of which, \$3 million was used for individual student grants, with the balance of funds supporting program development.
 - The allocation was shared by all seven community colleges. There are currently over 250 programs eligible for student grants across the community colleges.
- Allocation of the funds is managed by the Wyoming Community College Commission and the annual grant availability is subject to the Wyoming Legislature’s annual appropriations process and individual college allocations.
- Programs that qualify under Wyoming Works meet labor and economic development needs and may be for-credit or non-credit. Many existing programs will qualify and new programs have been developed. The length of the programs varies, from a two-week Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate to a two-year welding degree.
- Over the past three years, a total of \$3M of programmatic grants have been used to create new programs or expand existing programs.

- Since its inception, the WW program has provided \$1.7M in student grant funding for 1098 student terms.
- The business and industry organizations who supported Wyoming’s Tomorrow also supported Wyoming Works.
 - Wyoming’s Electric Cooperatives
 - American Clean Power
 - Wyoming Trucking Association
 - AGC of Wyoming
 - Wyoming Business Alliance
 - Wyoming Economic Development Association
 - Wyoming Association for CTE
 - Southwest Manufacturing Partnership
 - Wyoming Higher Education Council
 - Wyoming Mining Association
 - Wyoming Nursing Association
 - Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
 - Wyoming Telecommunications Association
 - AFL CIO
 - Alliance of Wyoming Manufacturers
 - Petroleum Association of Wyoming

HOW IS THIS BILL DIFFERENT FROM HB 30 – WYOMING’S TOMORROW SCHOLARSHIP AMENDMENTS?

- Again, this bill is about the alignment of current workforce needs AND investing in Wyoming’s future, so it includes an appropriation for the Wyoming Works Program Account as well as the Wyoming Works Student Grant Account.
- It also provides the appropriate language to allow for charitable contributions from business and private foundations.
- It **DOES NOT** provide for an appropriation into an expenditure account as HB 30 does. This means that the WT endowment will have to build for a year until interest is earned to give any scholarships for the Wyoming’s Tomorrow program.

WYOMING WORKS PROGRAMS AND WYOMING TOMORROW ELIGIBLE SCHOLARSHIPS

- Wyoming Works Programs examples limited to certificates and associate degrees: Welding, non-credit and credit CDL, Powerline Technology, Industrial Maintenance, Ag Production Tech, Data Analytics Systems Administrator, non-credit Certified Fiber Optics Specialist
- Wyoming’s Tomorrow Scholarship examples including WW eligible credit and non-credit: All WW approved programs, BAS programs, pre-med, Nursing, Data Scientist, Early Childhood Education, Healthcare Administration, Business-Industrial Mgmt., Finance, Mathematics, Chemistry, Engineering, Pre-Law, Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, etc. Here are some examples.