

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0222

Higher education-special financial assistance.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Nicholas

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to higher education; establishing a  
2 financial assistance program for University of Wyoming  
3 students whose parents or guardians are killed during  
4 active duty as a Wyoming peace officer; specifying  
5 limitations and eligibility criteria; providing for  
6 investment of program funds through the university  
7 foundation; providing appropriations; and providing for an  
8 effective date.

9

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

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12 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-16-1001 through 21-16-1004 are  
13 created to read:

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15

## ARTICLE 10

16

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WHOSE PARENTS OR

17

GUARDIANS ARE KILLED DURING ACTIVE DUTY AS A WYOMING PEACE

1

OFFICER

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**21-16-1001. Definitions.**

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(a) As used in this article:

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(i) "Academic semester" means the fall semester or term or the spring semester or term;

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(ii) "Academic year" means the period of time during which a full-time student is expected to complete the equivalent of at least two (2) semesters of academic work;

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(iii) "Eligible student" means a person who is enrolled at or who has been accepted for admission to the University of Wyoming and whose parent or legal guardian was killed in the line of duty while serving as a Wyoming peace officer as defined by W.S. 7-2-101 and as determined by the law enforcement agency in which the peace officer served.

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**21-16-1002. Financial assistance to students of peace officers killed in the line of duty; eligibility criteria**

24

1 **specified; limitations.**

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3 (a) The University of Wyoming shall immediately  
4 transfer any appropriation by the legislature to fund  
5 financial assistance for eligible University of Wyoming  
6 students under this article to the University of Wyoming  
7 foundation to be permanently invested. The university  
8 shall enter into a new agreement or modify its existing  
9 agreement with the University of Wyoming foundation under  
10 which the foundation shall manage the appropriated funds it  
11 receives in the same manner as other permanent endowment  
12 funds managed by the foundation. Only the earnings from  
13 the investment of these appropriated funds may be expended.  
14 These earnings shall be expended exclusively for the  
15 purposes of this article, including increasing the balance  
16 in the corpus and for reasonable costs of administration.

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18 (b) The university shall use available earnings from  
19 investment of appropriated funds as specified under  
20 subsection (a) of this section to provide financial  
21 assistance to eligible students under this article. In  
22 addition to other eligibility requirements, a student shall  
23 be admitted, enrolled and classified as an undergraduate  
24 student in a matriculated status as defined by university

1 policies and regulations. The funds shall be administered  
2 to assist as many eligible students as practicable  
3 consistent with the extent of the financial needs of the  
4 eligible students. No student shall be eligible for  
5 financial assistance under this article unless he first  
6 applies for financial assistance under this article before  
7 attaining the age of twenty-one (21) years.

8  
9 (c) To continue eligibility for financial assistance  
10 under this section, an eligible student shall maintain  
11 satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in  
12 accordance with the standards and practices used for  
13 federal Title IV programs by the university and shall  
14 maintain a minimum of twelve (12) hours of enrollment  
15 during any academic semester in which the recipient is  
16 receiving the scholarship. Financial assistance under this  
17 article shall terminate upon receipt of a baccalaureate  
18 degree.

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20 **21-16-1003. Financial assistance amounts; limitations**  
21 **specified.**

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23 (a) Any financial assistance awarded under this  
24 article to an individual shall not exceed the charges for

1 tuition.

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3 (b) Financial assistance under this article may be  
4 received for not to exceed a total of eight (8) academic  
5 terms during the six (6) consecutive academic years  
6 commencing with the first academic year in which the  
7 student was enrolled at the University of Wyoming and  
8 received financial assistance under this article. If a  
9 student elects to use financial assistance during summer  
10 school, the summer school term shall for purposes of this  
11 article, count toward the maximum number of terms for which  
12 the student is eligible but not toward the computation of  
13 an academic year.

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15 **21-16-1004. Eligibility.**

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17 (a) A student is not eligible for any financial  
18 assistance under this article if the student:

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20 (i) Is not a United States citizen or a  
21 permanent resident alien who meets the definition of an  
22 eligible noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements;

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24 (ii) Has not complied with United States

1 Selective Service System requirements for registration, if  
2 the requirements are applicable to the student;

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4 (iii) Is in default on a federal Title IV  
5 education loan or any education loan obtained through the  
6 state. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a student who  
7 is otherwise eligible for financial assistance under this  
8 article and has fully repaid a defaulted loan from  
9 receiving financial assistance for future academic  
10 semesters;

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12 (iv) Owes a refund under a federal Title IV  
13 student financial aid program or a student financial aid  
14 program administered through the state. Nothing in this  
15 paragraph prohibits a student who is otherwise eligible for  
16 financial assistance under this article and has fully paid  
17 the refund owed from receiving financial assistance for  
18 future academic semesters;

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20 (v) Would be ineligible for federal aid under  
21 Title IV in accordance with the federal Drug Free  
22 Postsecondary Education Act of 1990 for conviction of a  
23 felony offense involving a controlled substance;

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1           (vi) Is incarcerated; or

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3           (vii) Does not qualify under this article for  
4 financial assistance.

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6           **Section 2.**

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8           (a) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) is appropriated  
9 from the general fund to the University of Wyoming to be  
10 expended as provided under W.S. 21-16-1002, as created  
11 under section 1 of this act, for financial assistance  
12 during the academic year commencing with the 2003 fall  
13 semester.

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15           (b) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) is  
16 appropriated from the general fund to the University of  
17 Wyoming to be transferred for investment as provided under  
18 W.S. 21-16-1002(a), as created by section 1 of this act,  
19 for financial assistance following completion of the 2004  
20 fall semester.

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

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(END)