

FISCAL NOTE

This fiscal impact is indeterminable.

This bill will result in an indeterminable expenditure increase from the Hathaway Scholarship Expenditure Account and the Hathaway Scholarship Reserve Account beginning in FY 2026, due to multiple modifications to the Hathaway Scholarship Program (Program).

This bill modifies the Program by extending the timeframe an eligible student has to apply for the scholarship from four (4) years to twenty (20) years after high school graduation or the graduation date of the student's high school class if the student receives a high school equivalency certificate. The timeframe has also been extended for an eligible student to apply for the scholarship from the student's 21st to 41st birthday if the student completes a home-based educational program. This bill also modifies the Program by allowing a student to receive all or a portion of the student's remaining scholarship amount in any semester.

The bill repeals the satisfactory academic progress requirements to retain a scholarship and the eligibility requirement that a student is not eligible for a scholarship if the student has been convicted of a felony in Wyoming or another jurisdiction and has not been granted an exception by the Wyoming Department of Education.

The modifications result in an indeterminable expenditure increase due to: 1) a greater number of students eligible to participate in the Program; 2) the potential of scholarship awards being distributed earlier than current law provides; and 3) the potential of total scholarship awards increasing with the elimination of the satisfactory academic progress requirements.

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