

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Running start educational program study.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Andrew

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; requiring the Wyoming
2 community college commission to study and develop
3 recommendations for an expanded statewide postsecondary
4 education program as specified; requiring a report;
5 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
6 date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.**

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12 (a) The Wyoming community college commission shall
13 conduct a study to evaluate the creation of an expanded

1 statewide postsecondary education program designed to
2 increase and maximize opportunities for students to
3 complete postsecondary coursework and to earn postsecondary
4 credentials through the University of Wyoming and Wyoming
5 community colleges while enrolled in Wyoming public high
6 schools. The study shall include consideration of existing
7 Wyoming programs and programs administered by other states
8 that serve to accomplish the goals as specified in this
9 subsection.

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11 (b) The commission shall conduct the study in
12 consultation with representatives from:

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14 (i) Wyoming community colleges;

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16 (ii) The University of Wyoming;

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18 (iii) The department of education;

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20 (iv) The state board of education;

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22 (v) Wyoming school districts, including
23 administrators, counselors and teachers;

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(vi) Students and parents;

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(vii) Workforce development and economic
development organizations;

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(viii) Other stakeholders the commission
determines appropriate.

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(c) The study shall, at minimum, include consideration
and appropriate recommendations regarding the following:

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(i) Expansion of opportunities for students
enrolled in Wyoming public high schools to earn an
associate degree, workforce credential or substantial
postsecondary credit through the University of Wyoming or
Wyoming community colleges prior to high school graduation,
including a statewide goal that students have an
opportunity to complete an associate degree before
graduating from high school;

(ii) Student eligibility requirements and
participation standards;

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2 (iii) Funding for implementation of an expanded
3 statewide postsecondary education program, as contemplated
4 by this act, including consideration of:

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6 (A) Necessary adjustments to the existing
7 funding of school districts, the University of Wyoming and
8 Wyoming community colleges;

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10 (B) Cost efficiencies that may be realized
11 through streamlined funding mechanisms;

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13 (C) Potential fiscal impacts to school
14 districts, Wyoming community colleges, the University of
15 Wyoming and the state.

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17 (iv) Whether students should be permitted to
18 enroll full-time in postsecondary coursework while
19 remaining enrolled in and graduating from their resident
20 school district;

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22 (v) The extent to which successfully completed
23 postsecondary coursework should satisfy high school

1 graduation requirements, including whether school districts
2 should be required to award both high school and
3 postsecondary credit for qualifying coursework;

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5 (vi) Current enrollment practices utilized by
6 school districts, the University of Wyoming and Wyoming
7 community colleges for high school student participation in
8 postsecondary coursework and any barriers that exist to
9 student participation;

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11 (vii) Geographic access to postsecondary
12 coursework offered by the University of Wyoming and Wyoming
13 community colleges, including access through distance
14 education and technology-based delivery systems;

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16 (viii) Student advising, counseling and support
17 services to increase high school student participation in
18 postsecondary coursework through the University of Wyoming
19 and Wyoming community colleges;

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21 (ix) Course transferability between participating
22 school districts, the University of Wyoming and Wyoming
23 community colleges;

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2 (x) Data collection and reporting systems
3 necessary for program evaluation and accountability;

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5 (xi) Opportunities to align postsecondary
6 coursework as contemplated by this study with
7 opportunities to meet Wyoming workforce needs and economic
8 development priorities.

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10 (d) The commission shall prepare a report containing:

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12 (i) Recommendations to establish an expanded
13 statewide postsecondary education program as contemplated
14 by this act, including but not limited to the elements
15 contained in subsection (c) of this section;

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17 (ii) A fiscal impact analysis of recommended
18 options;

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20 (iii) Proposed legislation necessary to implement
21 the commission's recommendations.

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1 (e) Not later than January 1, 2028, the commission
2 shall submit the report required by subsection (d) to the
3 joint education interim committee.

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5 **Section 2.** There is appropriated one hundred fifty
6 thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) from the general fund to the
7 Wyoming community college commission for the purpose of
8 conducting the study required by this act. This
9 appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the
10 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2028. This
11 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
12 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
13 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
14 by law. It is the intent of the legislature that this
15 appropriation not be included in the community college
16 commission's standard budget for the immediately succeeding
17 fiscal biennium.

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

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(END)