**DRAFT ONLY**
**NOT APPROVED FOR INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

WICHE veterinary students amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to higher education; requiring veterinary students who receive educational loan repayment through the western interstate commission for higher education to practice in Wyoming as specified; allowing students to complete additional training before being required to repay educational costs; specifying applicability; repealing provisions; and providing for an effective date.

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

**Section 1.** W.S. 21-16-202(b)(iv)(A)(II) and (C) is amended to read:

**21-16-202. When binding; notice of ratification; power of governor to appoint commissioners; powers of commissioners generally; appropriation of monies.**

(b) In addition to those powers granted to the commissioners in the compact, the commissioners are directed and empowered:

(iv) In the interest of recruiting health care professionals to Wyoming, to impose a repayment program for participating students in dentistry, medicine, podiatry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, optometry, physician assistant programs, veterinary medicine and osteopathic medicine and obtain an agreement from each student first admitted as a WICHE program student to a participating institution of higher education for the 2013-2014 academic year and thereafter, subject to the following:

(A) The student agrees to:

(II) Repay all amounts expended by the state of Wyoming on the student's education through the WICHE program, together with interest which shall begin accruing after the student's graduation, ~~or~~ residency or completion of additional training in the student's field, whichever is later, but in no event later than eight (8) years after the student enters into an agreement, upon terms specified by the commission. However, interest shall begin to accrue when the student has withdrawn from the professional school or a residency program as determined by the commission or is otherwise not making satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree program as determined by the commission. Money expended under this paragraph shall accrue at an annual interest rate equal to that charged for federal Stafford loans at the time interest begins to accrue, which rate shall be adjusted annually to equal the federal Stafford loan rate. In no event shall the interest rate be greater than eight percent (8%).

**********

**STAFF COMMENT**

**The above amendment allowing students to complete additional training in their field seems to be outside the scope of the original intent of this bill, and might be seen as a separate topic in violation of the single subject rule for bills.**

**********

(C) Any amounts paid by medical, podiatry, osteopathic, occupational therapy, physical therapy, optometry, physician assistant, veterinary medicine or dental students in accordance with the contractual arrangements authorized under this paragraph shall be credited to a WICHE program repayment account which shall be expended upon appropriation by the legislature;

**Section 2.** W.S. 21-16-202(b)(iv)(D) is repealed.

**********

**STAFF COMMENT**

**The repealed language is highlighted as follows:**

21-16-202. When binding; notice of ratification; power of governor to appoint commissioners; powers of commissioners generally; appropriation of monies.

(b) In addition to those powers granted to the commissioners in the compact, the commissioners are directed and empowered:

(iv) In the interest of recruiting health care professionals to Wyoming, to impose a repayment program for participating students in dentistry, medicine, podiatry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, optometry, physician assistant programs and osteopathic medicine and obtain an agreement from each student first admitted as a WICHE program student to a participating institution of higher education for the 2013-2014 academic year and thereafter, subject to the following:

(D) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to the field of veterinary medicine.

**********

**Section 3.** This act shall apply to veterinary students who are accepted into the western interstate commission for higher education program on and after July 1, 2027.

**Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2027.

(END)