

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Youth Summer Jobs Program;
 3 creating the Florida Youth Summer Jobs Program; providing
 4 eligibility requirements for program participants and
 5 employers; requiring the program to be administered by the
 6 Agency for Workforce Innovation through its contract with
 7 Workforce Florida, Inc.; providing employment and
 8 educational requirements; requiring each regional
 9 workforce board to make an annual report; requiring the
 10 agency to adopt certain rules; requiring the agency to
 11 establish a funding formula for allocating appropriated
 12 funds; providing certain uses for program funds; providing
 13 an effective date.

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 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Florida Youth Summer Jobs Program.--

18 (1) CREATION.--There is created the Florida Youth Summer
 19 Jobs Program. The program shall offer at-risk and disadvantaged
 20 children summer jobs in partnership with local communities and
 21 private or public employers and is intended to foster improved
 22 work and academic skills and performance.

23 (2) ELIGIBILITY.--

24 (a) Children at least 14 but not more than 18 years of age
 25 are eligible to participate in the program if they are:

- 26 1. At risk of welfare dependency, including economically
 27 disadvantaged children, children of participants in the welfare
 28 transition program, children of migrant farmworkers, and

29 children of teen parents. For purposes of this section,
 30 "economically disadvantaged children" are those whose family
 31 income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty level;

32 2. Children of working families whose family income does
 33 not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level;

34 3. Juvenile offenders;

35 4. Children in foster care; or

36 5. Children with disabilities.

37 (b) Employers are eligible to participate in the program
 38 under the following conditions:

39 1. The employer shall enter into an individual service
 40 plan with the program participant and the local community on a
 41 form provided by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The plan
 42 shall be approved by the regional workforce board.

43 2. The employer shall pay the state minimum wage to a
 44 program participant hired under the program.

45 3. The maximum hours required of a program participant per
 46 week shall not exceed 30 hours.

47 4. The employer shall comply with state and federal child
 48 labor and antidiscrimination laws.

49 (3) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.--

50 (a) The program shall be outlined in the individual
 51 service plan between the employer, the program participant, and
 52 the local community and shall:

53 1. Provide the program participant a work experience that
 54 will teach personal responsibility and reinforce the obligations
 55 and rewards of holding a job.

56 2. Allow for an academic enrichment component that will
57 assist the program participant in remaining in or returning to
58 school.

59 3. Provide documented learning experiences relevant to the
60 type of work performed and tailored to the needs of the program
61 participant.

62 4. Allow for the provision of life skills training by the
63 local community or a third-party provider contracted by the
64 local community if such skills training takes up no more than 10
65 percent of the program participant's work time.

66 (b) The program may begin on the day after the end of the
67 regular school year in the local community and shall end before
68 the first regular day of school in the local community.

69 (4) GOVERNANCE.--

70 (a) The program shall be administered by the Agency for
71 Workforce Innovation through its contract with Workforce
72 Florida, Inc., and the regional workforce boards. The Agency for
73 Workforce Innovation is authorized to amend or renegotiate its
74 contract with Workforce Florida, Inc., consistent with this
75 section, to implement the program.

76 (b) Each regional workforce board shall report to
77 Workforce Florida, Inc., the number of at-risk and disadvantaged
78 children who enter the program, the types of work activities
79 they participated in, and the number of children who returned to
80 school, went to postsecondary school, or entered the workforce
81 full time at the end of the program. Workforce Florida, Inc.,
82 shall report to the Legislature by November 1 of each year on
83 the performance of the program.

84 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt by
85 rule a form for the individual service plan that meets the
86 requirements of paragraph (3)(a) and shall adopt by rule a
87 funding formula that meets the requirements of paragraph (5)(a).

88 (5) FUNDING.--

89 (a) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish a
90 funding formula for allocating appropriated funds to each
91 regional workforce board to support the program. The agency
92 shall allocate state program funds and any federal funds to each
93 regional workforce board pursuant to the formula, and each board
94 shall reserve the funds in its region for participating
95 employers and local communities on a pro rata basis based on the
96 number of approved individual service plans. The Agency for
97 Workforce Innovation, Workforce Florida, Inc., regional
98 workforce boards, or local communities may obtain private or
99 state and federal grants or other sources of funds in addition
100 to any appropriated funds.

101 (b) Program funds shall be used as follows:

102 1. No less than 85 percent of the funds shall be used for
103 youth wage payments or educational enrichment activities. These
104 funds shall be matched on a one-to-one basis by each local
105 community that participates in the program.

106 2. No more than 5 percent of the funds may be used for
107 administrative purposes.

108 3. The remainder of the funds may be used for
109 transportation assistance, childcare assistance, or other
110 assistance to enable a program participant to enter or remain in
111 the program.

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112 (c) A participating employer shall receive a payment equal
113 to one-half of the wages paid to a program participant under the
114 program. Payments shall be made monthly for the duration that
115 the program participant is employed as documented by the
116 employer and confirmed by the regional workforce board. Payments
117 shall be made by the regional workforce board.

118 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2005.