

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to job opportunities for youths; providing
 3 legislative intent to support vocational training and
 4 placement provided to at-risk youths through the
 5 Professional Opportunities Program for Students; providing
 6 for a pilot program; requiring program proposals to be
 7 submitted to the Department of Juvenile Justice; requiring
 8 a report to the Legislature; providing an appropriation;
 9 providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Professional Opportunities Program for
 14 Students; legislative intent; pilot program.--

15 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide support
 16 and funding for programs conducted by the Professional
 17 Opportunities Program for Students, hereinafter referred to as
 18 "POPS." POPS identifies and provides vocational-and-
 19 employability-skills training and placement programs and
 20 initiatives to youths between the ages of 16 and 18 years who
 21 may also qualify for the Department of Juvenile Justice's
 22 initiative programs for youth who have significant family
 23 troubles; have significant school troubles; have experienced
 24 drug or alcohol use, or both; or exhibit predelinquent behavior.

25 (2) During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, a pilot Professional
 26 Opportunities Program for Students may be conducted in the
 27 central region of the state. In order to receive funding under
 28 this act, a POPS entity must submit to the Department of

29 Juvenile Justice by September 1, 2005, a proposal for a training
30 and placement program for youths between the ages of 16 and 18
31 years who reside in Brevard County, Lake County, Osceola County,
32 Orange County, Seminole County, or Volusia County. The program
33 should include up to 6 months of education and training and
34 appropriate followup, including documentation of the percentage
35 of the youths who have been placed in jobs for which training
36 was provided under the program since its inception and the
37 percentage of those youths who remain in such jobs for at least
38 3 months after their placement. By January 1, 2006, the POPS
39 entity that has received funding under this act shall provide to
40 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
41 Representatives a report that includes an itemized list of
42 program costs; the statistics on job placement and retention of
43 the youths served by the program; and recommendations for
44 further legislation, including an opinion as to the feasibility
45 of extending such programs throughout the state.

46 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General Revenue
47 Fund to the Department of Juvenile Justice for the 2005-2006
48 fiscal year an amount sufficient to fund a pilot project that
49 has been proposed by the Professional Opportunities Program for
50 Students (POPS) and approved by the department as provided in
51 subsection (2) of section 1 of this act.

52 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.