

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to high school work experience; creating  
3           s. 1003.496, F.S.; requiring each district school board to  
4           adopt policies and procedures for a High School to  
5           Business Career Enhancement Program through which student  
6           internships shall be offered in each school district;  
7           providing internship requirements; providing for the  
8           number of internships employers may offer; requiring the  
9           background screening of employees or contracted personnel  
10          of employers participating in the program; clarifying that  
11          employment of a student intern is not employment for  
12          purposes of unemployment compensation; providing  
13          rulemaking authority; providing an effective date.

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15          WHEREAS, student learning outside of the classroom, as well  
16          as student learning in the classroom, is critical to success  
17          later in life, and

18          WHEREAS, high school student participation in an internship  
19          may provide an experience that will cultivate a student's  
20          interest or talent and may be used to supplement a student's  
21          high school major, and

22          WHEREAS, participation in an internship can be a good  
23          educational tool and provide employment opportunities after high  
24          school or college graduation, and

25          WHEREAS, participation in an internship will increase the  
26          connections of a high school student to business and the  
27          community, and

28          WHEREAS, participation in an internship may be the

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29 motivation to pursue higher education in a particular field, and  
 30 WHEREAS, partnerships between schools and employers that  
 31 offer internships to high school students will help employers  
 32 find and train workers and help young people prepare for success  
 33 in college, careers, and life, and

34 WHEREAS, employers benefit by training student interns in  
 35 their business methods and form a connection between the  
 36 employer and the student that may keep talented students in the  
 37 state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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41 Section 1. Section 1003.496, Florida Statutes, is created  
 42 to read:

43 1003.496 High School to Business Career Enhancement  
 44 Program.--

45 (1) This section may be cited as the "High School to  
 46 Business Career Enhancement Act."

47 (2) (a) Each district school board shall adopt policies and  
 48 procedures for a High School to Business Career Enhancement  
 49 Program through which high school student internships shall be  
 50 offered in each school district through partnerships developed  
 51 with employers within the communities served by the district  
 52 school board. Each internship shall include a student evaluation  
 53 by the employer at the end of the internship to monitor the  
 54 academic value of the internship using criteria established by  
 55 each district school board.

56 (b) A student participant may be in the ninth, tenth,

57 eleventh, or twelfth grade and must have a minimum weighted  
58 grade point average of 2.0.

59 (c) A student participant may not be required to work more  
60 than 20 hours per week during the internship.

61 (d) An internship shall be consistent with the career  
62 goals of each student participant.

63 (e) An internship shall be at least 8 weeks long and may  
64 not last more than 20 consecutive weeks during any school year.

65 (f) Each student may participate in only one internship  
66 per school year.

67 (g) No more than 100 internships may be offered each  
68 school year by a district school board.

69 (h) The number of internships that an employer may provide  
70 under this program is limited by the number of employees that  
71 the employer employs in the school district in which the  
72 internship is offered.

73 1. An employer with 10 or fewer employees may provide one  
74 internship per school year.

75 2. An employer with 11 to 20 employees may provide up to  
76 two internships per school year.

77 3. An employer with 21 to 50 employees may provide up to  
78 three internships per school year.

79 4. An employer with more than 50 employees may provide up  
80 to four internships per school year.

81  
82 Employers may partner with more than one district school board;  
83 however, the number of internships that may be provided within  
84 each school district is subject to the limitations of this

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85 paragraph.

86 (i) Any employees or contracted personnel of an employer  
87 under this section who have direct contact with student interns  
88 shall be subject to the level 2 background screening  
89 requirements as described in s. 1012.32. The cost of the state  
90 and federal criminal history check required by level 2  
91 background screening must be borne by the employer.

92 (3) Employment under this section of a student intern who  
93 meets the criteria of s. 443.1216(13)(q) is not employment for  
94 purposes of unemployment compensation under chapter 443.

95 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules necessary  
96 to administer this section.

97 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.