

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to high school work experience; creating
 3 s. 1003.496, F.S.; authorizing each district school board
 4 to adopt policies and procedures for a High School to
 5 Business Career Enhancement Program through which student
 6 internships may 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

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 may adopt policies and
 48 procedures for a High School to Business Career Enhancement
 49 Program through which high school student internships may 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.

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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

85 paragraph.

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