By Senator Wise

5-465A-07

1   A bill to be entitled
2   An act relating to the Florida Work Experience
3   Program; amending s. 1009.77, F.S.; providing
4   that certain participants in educator
5   preparation institutes may participate in the
6   program; authorizing career centers that are
7   operated by district school boards to
8   participate in the program; lowering the
9   minimum percentage of a participating student's
10   wages which must be reimbursed to employers;
11   prescribing requirements for career education
12   programs whose enrollees may participate in the
13   work experience program; providing an
14   appropriation; providing an effective date.
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16   WHEREAS, the public community colleges and school
17   district postsecondary career centers were created by the
18   state to provide affordable access to higher education for the
19   residents of this state, and
20   WHEREAS, students seeking certificate workforce
21   programs have no access to state need-based financial aid and
22   must rely on student loans and scholarships to finance their
23   higher education, and
24   WHEREAS, student debt has escalated at an unprecedented
25   level, causing students to owe large sums of money that are
26   often difficult to repay, especially with compounding
27   interest, and
28   WHEREAS, the State of Florida needs a trained
29   workforce, and between 70 and 80 percent of jobs in the future
30   will require education beyond high school but less than a
31   baccalaureate degree, and

 1   WHEREAS, students' willingness to work for their
 2   need-based financial aid in a field for which they are
 3   studying is of benefit to the student, the employer, and the
 4   state, NOW, THEREFORE,
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 6   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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 8   Section 1. Subsections (1), (4), (5), and (6) of
 9   section 1009.77, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
10   1009.77 Florida Work Experience Program.--
11   (1) There is established the Florida Work Experience
12   Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The
13   purpose of the program is to introduce eligible students to
14   work experience that will complement and reinforce their
15   educational program and career goals and provide a self-help
16   student aid program. Such program shall be available to:
17   (a) Any student attending a state university or
18   community college authorized by Florida law <u>or a career center</u>
19   <u>operated by a district school board</u>; ~~or~~
20   (b) Any student attending a nonprofit Florida
21   postsecondary education institution that is eligible to
22   participate in either of the student assistance grant programs
23   established in ss. 1009.51 and 1009.52<u>; or</u>~~.~~
24   <u>(c) Any student enrolled in an educator preparation</u>
25   <u>institute who demonstrates financial need, even if he or she</u>
26   <u>already has earned a baccalaureate degree.</u>
27   (4) The participating postsecondary educational
28   institution shall be responsible for reimbursing employers for
29   student wages from moneys it receives from the trust fund
30   pursuant to subsection (8). Public elementary or secondary
31   school employers shall be reimbursed for 100 percent of the

 1 student's wages by the participating institution. All other

 2 employers shall be reimbursed for up to 70 percent of the

 3 student's wages. When a college or university employs a

 4 student on campus through this program, other student

 5 financial aid funds may not be used to fund the institution's

 6 30 percent portion of the student's wages.

 7   (5) The employer is responsible for furnishing the

 8 full cost of any mandatory benefits. Such benefits may not be

 9 considered part of the 30 percent wage requirement total for

10 matching purposes.

11   (6) A student is eligible to participate in the

12 Florida Work Experience Program if the student:

13   (a) Is enrolled:

14   1. In a postsecondary career education program

15 comprising 450 hours of instruction or more which is approved

16 by the Department of Education and offered through a career

17 center operated by a district school board, or through a

18 community college, as no less than a half-time student in good

19 standing; or

20   2. At an eligible college or university as no less

21 than a half-time undergraduate student in good standing.

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23 However, a student may be employed during the break between

24 two consecutive terms or employed, although not enrolled,

25 during a term if the student was enrolled at least half time

26 during the preceding term and preregisters as no less than a

27 half-time student for the subsequent academic term. A student

28 who attends an institution that does not provide

29 preregistration shall provide documentation of intent to

30 enroll as no less than a half-time student for the subsequent

31 academic term.

1   (b)   Meets the general requirements for student

2   eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise

3   provided in this section.

4   (c)   Demonstrates financial need.

5   (d)   Maintains a 2.0 cumulative grade point average on

6   a 4.0 scale for all postsecondary college work.

7   Section 2.   For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the sum of

8    $500,000 is appropriated from recurring general revenue funds

9   to the Florida Work Experience Program for community colleges

10   and postsecondary career centers operated by the school

11   districts for the purpose of providing need-based financial

12   aid to students working through this program.

13   Section 3.   This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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16   SENATE SUMMARY

17   Amends requirements relating to students and institutions
     that may participate in the Florida Work Experience
18   Program. Allows certain participants in educator
     preparation institutes to participate. Authorizes career
19   centers that are operated by district school boards to
     participate. Prescribes the minimum percentage of a
20   participating student's wages which must be reimbursed to
     employers as "up to 70 percent," rather than 70 percent.
21   Prescribes requirements for career education programs
     whose enrollees may participate in the work experience
22   program. Provides an appropriation.

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