

By Senator Powell

30-01586-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Summer Youth Service Learning  
3       Program; providing a short title; creating s. 446.046,  
4       F.S.; creating the program within the Department of  
5       Education; providing the purpose of the program;  
6       providing eligibility requirements for students and  
7       employers to participate in the program; requiring and  
8       authorizing specified entities to participate in the  
9       program; requiring the department to create a  
10      statewide employment hub for the program; requiring  
11      participating employers to post employment  
12      opportunities to the employment hub; requiring school  
13      districts and public postsecondary institutions to  
14      notify students of the employment hub; providing  
15      requirements for the employment hub; authorizing  
16      employers to provide students with a bus pass for a  
17      specified time period under certain circumstances;  
18      requiring participating employers to provide  
19      participating students with an accurate letter of  
20      recommendation; providing for implementation of the  
21      program; requiring the State Board of Education to  
22      adopt rules; providing an effective date.

23  
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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26       Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Youth Service  
27 Learning and Employment Assistance Initiative Act."

28       Section 2. Section 446.046, Florida Statutes, is created to  
29 read:

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30 446.046 Summer Youth Service Learning Program.—

31 (1) PURPOSE.—The Summer Youth Service Learning Program is  
32 created within the department to match low-income and moderate-  
33 income students who have outstanding academic records or trade  
34 skills with appropriate summer employment opportunities at state  
35 agencies, school districts, local governments, and participating  
36 private businesses that will prepare participating students for  
37 entering the workforce as adults. Such summer employment  
38 opportunities shall be funded by the Legislature and shall  
39 enable students to gain meaningful work experience and exposure  
40 to exciting career industries; to interact with working  
41 professionals in a positive environment; and to learn and  
42 develop skills, attitudes, and the necessary commitment to  
43 succeed in today's world of work.

44 (2) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in  
45 the program, a student must:

46 (a) Be between the ages of 14 and 22, inclusive.

47 (b) Be enrolled in a secondary school or postsecondary  
48 educational institution within this state.

49 (c) Be in good academic standing, as established by the  
50 State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (8).

51 (d) Be responsible for his or her own transportation to and  
52 from his or her employment through the program unless provided a  
53 bus pass as provided in subsection (5).

54 (e) Meet any other criteria established by the state board.

55 (3) PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS.—Each state agency and district  
56 school board shall, and local governments and local private  
57 businesses may, participate in the program. To provide summer  
58 employment opportunities to students pursuant to this section, a

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59 participating employer must:

60 (a) Comply with chapter 448, part I of chapter 450, and all  
61 applicable federal laws and regulations.

62 (b) Post any summer employment opportunities for  
63 participating students on the department's employment hub  
64 pursuant to subsection (4).

65 (c) Meet any other requirements established by the state  
66 board.

67 (4) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND EMPLOYMENT HUB.—

68 (a) The department shall create a statewide employment hub  
69 website for the posting of summer employment opportunities  
70 available to students through the program. Participating  
71 employers shall post available summer employment opportunities  
72 to the employment hub. Each school district and public  
73 postsecondary institution shall notify students of the  
74 availability of the employment hub. The employment hub must  
75 include:

76 1. A mechanism for students to search for summer employment  
77 opportunities in their respective areas. Such mechanism must  
78 allow students to search by both geographic area and job  
79 responsibilities.

80 2. Information about the requirements for each job,  
81 including any necessary qualifications.

82 3. An online application for students to complete for  
83 employment opportunities available through the program.

84 (b) Summer employment opportunities available through the  
85 program must focus on developing trade skills or work experience  
86 that will assist a student to gain full-time employment upon  
87 completing his or her education.

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88           (5) TRANSPORTATION FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENTS.—A  
89 participating employer under this section, upon request of an  
90 employed student, may provide him or her with a bus pass that is  
91 good for the duration of the student's summer employment to  
92 assist the student with work-related transportation.

93           (6) LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.—Each participating employer  
94 must provide a participating student with a letter of  
95 recommendation at the end of his or her summer employment. The  
96 letter of recommendation must be an honest and accurate  
97 recounting of the student's performance in the program.

98           (7) FUNDING.—This program shall be implemented to the  
99 extent that funding is made available in the General  
100 Appropriations Act.

101           (8) RULES.—The state board shall adopt rules to administer  
102 the program. Such rules must include, at a minimum, criteria  
103 for:

104           (a) Student eligibility and academic standards for  
105 participation in the program.

106           (b) The participation of private businesses in the program.

107           (c) Summer employment opportunities available through the  
108 program.

109           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.