

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to summer youth service learning;
 3 providing a short title; creating s. 446.046, F.S.;
 4 creating a summer youth service learning program;
 5 providing the purpose of the program; providing
 6 student eligibility; providing requirements for
 7 participating employers; requiring specified entities
 8 to participate in the program; providing requirements
 9 for employment opportunities through the program;
 10 requiring the Department of Education to create a
 11 statewide employment hub; providing requirements for
 12 the statewide employment hub; requiring school
 13 districts and public postsecondary institutions to
 14 provide certain information to students; authorizing
 15 participating employers to provide students with a
 16 pass for public transportation during a specified time
 17 period; requiring participating employers to provide
 18 students with an accurate letter of recommendation;
 19 providing for implementation; requiring rulemaking;
 20 providing requirements for such rules; providing an
 21 effective date.

22
 23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 24

25 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Youth Service

26 Learning and Employment Assistance Initiative Act."

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

29 446.046 Summer youth service learning program.—

30 (1) There is created within the department a summer youth
31 service learning program to match students from low-income and
32 moderate-income families who have outstanding academic records
33 or trade skills with appropriate summer employment opportunities
34 with state agencies, school districts, local governments, and
35 participating private businesses in order to prepare such
36 students to enter the workforce as adults. The Legislature shall
37 fund such summer employment opportunities that will enable
38 students to gain meaningful work experience and exposure to
39 exciting career industries; interact with working professionals
40 in a positive environment; and learn and develop the skills,
41 attitudes, and commitment necessary to succeed in the workforce.

42 (2) To be eligible to participate in the program, a
43 student must:

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

45 (b) Be enrolled in a secondary school or postsecondary
46 educational institution within the state.

47 (c) Be in good academic standing, as established by the
48 State Board of Education under subsection (8).

49 (d) Be responsible for transportation to and from the
50 place of employment.

51 (e) Meet any other criteria established by the State Board
52 of Education.

53 (3) Each state agency and district school board shall, and
54 local governments and local private businesses may, participate
55 in the program. To provide summer employment opportunities
56 through the program to students under this section, a
57 participating employer must:

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

60 (b) Post any summer employment opportunities for
61 participating students on the department's employment hub under
62 subsection (4).

63 (c) Meet any other requirements established by the State
64 Board of Education.

65 (4)(a) The department shall create a statewide employment
66 hub for summer employment opportunities through the program.
67 Participating employers shall post available summer employment
68 opportunities to the employment hub. Each school district and
69 public postsecondary institution shall notify students of the
70 employment hub. The employment hub must be a website and include
71 all of the following:

72 1. A mechanism for students to search for summer
73 employment opportunities by geographic area and job
74 responsibilities.

75 2. Information about the requirements for each job,

76 | including any necessary qualifications.

77 | 3. An online application for students to complete for
78 | employment opportunities available through the program.

79 | (b) Summer employment opportunities available through the
80 | program must focus on trade skills and experiences that will
81 | help a student gain full-time employment upon completing his or
82 | her education.

83 | (5) A participating employer under this section may, upon
84 | request, furnish an employed student with a pass for public
85 | transportation which is valid for the duration of the student's
86 | summer employment opportunity.

87 | (6) Participating employers must provide each
88 | participating student with a letter of recommendation at the end
89 | of his or her summer employment. The letter of recommendation
90 | must be an honest and accurate recounting of the student's
91 | performance in the program.

92 | (7) This program shall be implemented to the extent funded
93 | in the General Appropriations Act.

94 | (8) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
95 | administer the program. Such rules must include, at a minimum,
96 | criteria for:

97 | (a) Student eligibility and academic standards for
98 | participation in the program.

99 | (b) The participation of private businesses in the
100 | program.

HB 107

2023

101 (c) Summer employment opportunities available through the
102 program.

103 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.