

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; requiring the
 8 background screening of employees or contracted personnel
 9 participating in this program; providing for number of
 10 internships certain employers may offer; clarifying that
 11 employment of a student intern is not employment for
 12 purposes of unemployment compensation; providing the
 13 Department of Education with rulemaking authority;
 14 providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, participation in an internship may be the

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

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

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

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

44 1003.496 High School to Business Career Enhancement 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, as defined in section
 48 1003.01, shall adopt policies and procedures for a High School to
 49 Business Career Enhancement Program through which high school
 50 student internships shall be offered in each school district
 51 through partnerships developed with employers within the
 52 communities served by the district school board. Each internship
 53 shall be coordinated with the career goals of each student
 54 participant and shall include a student evaluation at the end of
 55 each internship, by the employer offering the internship, to
 56 monitor the academic value of the internship using criteria
 57 established by each district school board.

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

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

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

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

65 (e) An internship shall be at least eight weeks long, and
66 cannot last more than 20 consecutive weeks during any school
67 year.

68 (f) Each student may only participate in one internship per
69 school year.

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

72 (h) The number of internships that an employer may provide
73 under this program is limited to the number of employees that the
74 employer employs in the school district in which the internship
75 is offered.

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

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

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

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

84
85 Employers may partner with more than one district school board;
86 however, the number of internships that may be provided within
87 each district school board are subject to the limitations of this

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88 paragraph.

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

95 (3) Employment under this section of a student intern who
96 meets the criteria of s. 443.1216(13)(i)2. is not employment for
97 purposes of unemployment compensation under chapter 443.

98 (4) RULES.- The State Board of Education may adopt rules
99 necessary to administer this section.

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