

## Council Substitute for House Bill No. 1161

An act relating to high school work experience; creating s. 1003.496, F.S.; authorizing each district school board to adopt policies and procedures for a High School to Business Career Enhancement Program through which student internships may be offered in each school district; providing internship requirements; providing for the number of internships employers may offer; requiring the background screening of employees or contracted personnel of employers participating in the program; clarifying that employment of a student intern is not employment for purposes of unemployment compensation; providing rulemaking authority; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, participation in an internship may be the motivation to pursue higher education in a particular field, and

WHEREAS, partnerships between schools and employers that offer internships to high school students will help employers find and train workers and help young people prepare for success in college, careers, and life, and

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

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

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

1003.496 High School to Business Career Enhancement Program.—

(1) This section may be cited as the “High School to Business Career Enhancement Act.”

(2)(a) Each district school board may adopt policies and procedures for a High School to Business Career Enhancement Program through which high school student internships may be offered in each school district through partnerships developed with employers within the communities

served by the district school board. Each internship shall include a student evaluation by the employer at the end of the internship to monitor the academic value of the internship using criteria established by each district school board.

(b) A student participant may be in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade and must have a minimum weighted grade point average of 2.0.

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

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

(e) An internship shall be at least 8 weeks long and may not last more than 20 consecutive weeks during any school year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employers may partner with more than one district school board; however, the number of internships that may be provided within each school district is subject to the limitations of this paragraph.

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor June 12, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 12, 2007.