

CHAPTER 2026-170

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1081

An act relating to cybersecurity experiential learning; amending s. 1004.444, F.S.; requiring, subject to legislative appropriation, the Florida Center for Cybersecurity (Cyber Florida) to develop the Cybersecurity Experiential Learning Program; providing requirements for the program; providing reporting requirements for Cyber Florida related to participation in and improvement of the program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 1004.444, Florida Statutes, to read:

1004.444 Florida Center for Cybersecurity.—

(4) Subject to appropriation, the center shall assist in the expansion of experiential learning opportunities for students at state universities, Florida College System institutions, and private postsecondary educational institutions by:

(a) Developing a Cybersecurity Experiential Learning Program. The center shall:

1. Identify specific internship and experiential learning opportunities that the United States Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has identified as the most impactful on a student's job placement in high-demand cybersecurity roles.

2. Consult with employers in this state with openings or anticipated openings in cybersecurity roles or other industries that perform work that require a security clearance.

3. Review best practices for cybersecurity experiential learning opportunities in place at other National Security Agency National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity-designated institutions within and outside of the state that can be replicated at institutions across the state, including those that NIST has identified as the most impactful on a student's job placement in high-demand cybersecurity roles.

4. Establish the minimum qualifications that a student should possess or meet before enrolling in the Cybersecurity Experiential Learning Program.

5. Identify the state universities, Florida College System institutions, and private postsecondary educational institutions seeking to participate in

the program and the projected number of students to be served at each participating institution during the fiscal year.

(b) Publishing on its website, by July 1, 2028, and on July 1 of each year thereafter, a report on the Cybersecurity Experiential Program that contains, by institution, the number of students participating in the program, the number of program completers, the passage rate of any certification examinations, the placement rate of program completers in cybersecurity positions, and recommendations for program improvements, including potential integration with other state workforce initiatives.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor June 25, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 25, 2026.