



Bill Number: House Bill 1161

Bill Title: High School to Business Career Enhancement Act

Bill Sponsor: Representative Ambler

Effective Date: July 1, 2007

DOE Contact: Lucy Hadi, Chancellor, Division of Workforce Education, (850) 245-0446

Executive Summary:

The High School to Business Career Enhancement Act is created to authorize district school boards to adopt policies to provide high school internships annually through employers that partner with the school district. The purpose of the High School to Business Career Enhancement Act is to provide students who have an interest in a particular career path an opportunity to cultivate that interest or talent and motivate students to pursue higher education in that field.

This act creates section 1003.496, Florida Statutes, to offer high school student internships based on partnerships developed with employers within the communities served by the district school board.

An internship must be coordinated with the career goals of each student participant and include a student evaluation each semester by the employer offering the internship to monitor the academic value.

Students in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grades may participate in the program if they have a minimum weighted grade point average of 2.0. Student participants may not be required to work more than 20 hours per week during the internship. An internship must be at least 8 weeks long but may not last more than 20 consecutive weeks during any school year. Each student may participate in one internship per school year.

The act limits the number of internships an employer may have in the school district per school year as follows:

- An employer with 10 or fewer employees may provide one internship per school year
- An employer with 11 to 20 employees may provide up to two internships per school year
- An employer with 21 to 50 employees may provide up to three internships per school year
- 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, no more than 100 internships may be offered each school year by a district school board.

Employees or contracted personnel who have direct unsupervised access to student interns must be subject to the level 2 background screening requirements as described in section 1012.32, Florida Statutes. The employer must pay for the background check.

The act exempts the employment of student interns under this program from the definition of employment for the purposes of unemployment compensation under chapter 443, Florida Statutes.

The State Board of Education may adopt rules necessary to administer the act.



General Implementation Timeline:

- 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.