

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the summer youth service learning
 3 program; providing a short title; creating s. 446.046,
 4 F.S.; creating the summer youth service learning
 5 program; providing the purpose of the program;
 6 providing student eligibility; providing requirements
 7 for participating employers; requiring specified
 8 entities to participate in the program; providing
 9 requirements for employment opportunities through the
 10 program; requiring the Department of Education to
 11 create a statewide employment hub; providing
 12 requirements for the statewide employment hub;
 13 requiring school districts and public postsecondary
 14 institutions to provide certain information to
 15 students; authorizing employers to provide students
 16 with a bus pass for a specified time period; requiring
 17 participating employers to provide students with an
 18 accurate letter of recommendation; providing for
 19 implementation; requiring rulemaking; providing
 20 requirements for such rules; providing an effective
 21 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) PURPOSE.-There is created within the department the
31 summer youth service learning program to match low-income and
32 moderate-income students 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 that will prepare such students
36 for entering the workforce as adults. Such summer employment
37 opportunities shall be funded by the Legislature and shall
38 enable students to gain meaningful work experience and exposure
39 to exciting career industries; interact with working
40 professionals in a positive environment; and learn and develop
41 skills, attitudes, and the necessary commitment to succeed in
42 today's world of work.

43 (2) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.-To be eligible to participate in
44 the program, a student must:

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

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

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

50 (d) Be responsible for his or her own transportation to

51 and from his or her employment through the program.

52 (e) Meet any other criteria established by the state
53 board.

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

59 (a) Comply with the provisions of chapter 448 and part I
60 of chapter 450 and all applicable federal laws and regulations.

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

64 (c) Meet any other requirements established by the state
65 board.

66 (4) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND EMPLOYMENT HUB.—

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

74 1. A mechanism for students to search for summer
75 employment opportunities in their area. Such mechanism must

76 | allow students to search by geographic area and job
77 | responsibilities.

78 | 2. Information about the requirements for each job,
79 | including any necessary qualifications.

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

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

86 | (5) TRANSPORTATION FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENTS.—A
87 | participating employer under this section may, upon request,
88 | furnish an employed student with a bus pass that is good for the
89 | duration of the student's summer employment opportunity to help
90 | the student with transportation to and from work.

91 | (6) LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.—Each participating employer
92 | must provide a participating student with a letter of
93 | recommendation at the end of his or her summer employment. The
94 | letter of recommendation must be an honest and accurate
95 | recounting of the student's performance in the program.

96 | (7) FUNDING.—This program shall be implemented to the
97 | extent funded in the General Appropriations Act.

98 | (8) RULES.—The state board shall adopt rules to administer
99 | this program. Such rules must include, at a minimum, criteria
100 | for:

HB 769

2021

101 (a) Student eligibility and academic standards for
102 participation in the program.

103 (b) The participation of private businesses in the
104 program.

105 (c) Summer employment opportunities available through the
106 program.

107 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.