

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          each participating employer to provide students with  
18          an accurate letter of recommendation; providing for  
19          implementation; providing for rulemaking; providing  
20          requirements for such rules; providing an effective  
21          date.

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

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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 with outstanding academic records or  
33 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:

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, 2019.