
HOUSE BILL 1760

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Probst, Sells, Upthegrove, and Hope

Read first time 02/01/11. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to internship opportunities; adding a new section
2 to chapter 28C.18 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the economic
5 crisis has presented many challenges for youth seeking employment and
6 that many Washington businesses cannot find prospective employees with
7 adequate job skills training in required areas. The legislature
8 intends to overcome these challenges through innovative solutions that
9 maximize existing resources to provide opportunities for job seekers to
10 develop and hone their skills, and for employers to leverage public
11 resources to grow their industry.

12 Higher education has become the focal point for thousands of
13 Washington residents who wish to access high-skill, high-wage, and
14 high-demand job opportunities. Many graduates, especially among
15 younger generations, are finding that to be competitive for their
16 desired career requires more than just a degree. Just as
17 extracurricular activities increase a student's competitiveness in the
18 college admissions process, internships that develop strong skill sets
19 and work habits increase an applicant's competitiveness in the hiring

1 process. Engagement in experiential learning provides students an
2 opportunity to apply what is learned in the classroom in a workplace
3 setting and build confidence in their abilities.

4 Students gain more than just a greater understanding of their
5 future career; they start to build a professional network that allows
6 them to draw on their connections after graduation to find job openings
7 and to act as references attesting to their character and competencies.
8 These connections are symbiotic in nature.

9 Businesses that provide internship opportunities help to develop
10 their future talent pool of potential employees and increase the skill
11 base for their industry overall. The connections developed through
12 internships also have the potential to increase an industry's
13 visibility and student interest for in-demand occupations, as well as
14 assist businesses in expanding or enhancing aspects of their operations
15 that may be lacking in areas of a given student's skill set developed
16 in the classroom.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) The board shall create a unified, profile-based web application
20 that provides a forum for students and employers to develop networks
21 and match prospective interns with internship opportunities.

22 (2) Within the web application, students and employers may enter
23 information designed to provide criteria that create a profile for
24 matching potential interns with internship opportunities. The
25 application must give students the option of submitting matches to
26 academic or career advisors at the institution they attend.

27 (3) The web application must match the profiles of potential
28 interns and compatible employers, provide interns and employers with
29 lists of potential matches, and allow access to the profiles of the
30 matches.

31 (4) The board may solicit and receive gifts, grants, and bequests
32 and enter into contribution agreements with private entities and public
33 entities to receive moneys for the purposes of developing the web
34 application.

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