

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 a
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 in order to prepare such
36 students to enter the workforce as adults. Such summer
37 employment opportunities shall be funded by the Legislature and
38 will enable students to gain meaningful work experience and
39 exposure to exciting career industries; interact with working
40 professionals in a positive environment; and learn and develop
41 the skills, attitudes, and commitment necessary 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 years, inclusive.

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

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

50 (d) Be responsible for transportation to and from the

51 place of employment.

52 (e) Meet any other criteria established by the State Board
53 of Education.

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 under this section,
58 a participating employer must:

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

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

64 (c) Meet any other requirements established by the State
65 Board of Education.

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.

69 Participating employers shall post available summer employment
70 opportunities to the employment hub. Each school district and
71 public postsecondary institution must notify students of the
72 employment hub. The employment hub shall be a website and must
73 include:

74 1. A mechanism for students to search for summer
75 employment opportunities by geographic area and job

76 | responsibilities.

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

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

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

85 | (5) TRANSPORTATION FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENTS.—A
 86 | participating employer under this section may, upon request,
 87 | furnish an employed student with a pass for public
 88 | transportation which is valid for the duration of the student's
 89 | summer employment opportunity.

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

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

97 | (8) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 98 | to administer the program. Such rules must include, at a
 99 | minimum, criteria for:

100 | (a) Student eligibility and academic standards for

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101 participation in the program.

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

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

106 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.