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SENATE BILL 5637

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama, Hatfield, Shin, Schoesler, Harper, McAuliffe, Fraser, Conway, Kohl-Welles, and Chase

Read first time 02/02/11. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

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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