

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1760

As Reported by House Committee On:
Labor & Workforce Development

Title: An act relating to internship opportunities.

Brief Description: Requiring creation of a web-based application to match profiles of students and employers for internship opportunities.

Sponsors: Representatives Probst, Sells, Upthegrove and Hope.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Labor & Workforce Development: 2/11/11, 2/15/11 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires the Workforce Training Board to create a web application for matching prospective interns with internship opportunities.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Sells, Chair; Reykdal, Vice Chair; Condotta, Ranking Minority Member; Shea, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Fagan, Green, Kenney, Miloscia, Moeller, Ormsby, Roberts, Taylor and Warnick.

Staff: Jill Reinmuth (786-7134).

Background:

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Board) allocates grants to workforce development councils, community and technical colleges, and others to establish and support industry skill panels. The skill panels identify workforce strategies to enable businesses to address workforce skill needs. Such strategies may include arranging employer mentoring, tutoring, and internships. The services of particular skill panels depend upon industry needs.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Board also administers the Opportunity Internship Program. The Opportunity Internship Program provides incentives for local consortia to use existing resources to train low-income high school students for high-demand occupations in targeted industries. The consortia consist of organizations including: high schools, community and technical colleges, employers, labor groups, apprenticeship councils, and preapprenticeship programs. The consortia develop and implement various components of opportunity internships, including internships or preapprenticeships in high-demand occupations.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The Legislature finds that the economic crisis has presented many challenges for youth seeking employment, and that many businesses cannot find prospective employees with adequate training. The Legislature intends to overcome these challenges through innovative solutions that maximize existing resources.

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Board) is required to create a web application that:

- provides a forum for students and employers to develop networks and match prospective interns with internship opportunities;
- permits students and employers to create profiles for matching potential interns with opportunities, and also gives students the option of submitting matches to their academic or career advisors; and
- matches profiles of potential interns and compatible employers, provides lists of potential matches, and allows access to profiles of potential matches.

The Board is authorized to solicit and receive gifts and grants to develop the web application. Implementation of the web application is subject to funding in the operating budget or receipt of other moneys.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

Implementation of the web application is subject to funding in the operating budget or receipt of other moneys.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill will help provide a comprehensive view of internship opportunities, and will help connect students with resources.

The main difficulty now is that there is lots of bifurcation where colleges use outside vendors. The colleges and the vendors are disconnected. It is difficult for students to see what opportunities are available to them, especially at organizations that are not big, brand name companies. At the same time, internships are one of the most important things students can do to get jobs after college.

InternMatch built a platform to solve the problem that you are talking about. It does about 90 percent of what the bill talks about.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Lew McMurrin and Mike Bogatay, Washington Technology Industry Association; and Andrew Maguire, InternMatch.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.