

By: Miles

S.B. No. 574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of applied workforce learning opportunities in this state, including through the establishment of the Texas Industry Internship Challenge.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.0028 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.0028. APPLIED WORKFORCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES; TEXAS INDUSTRY INTERNSHIP CHALLENGE. (a) The commission, in partnership with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall develop and implement strategies to:

(1) significantly increase the number of, and participation by students in, applied workforce learning opportunities, including paid internships, externships, and apprenticeships, offered by employers in high-demand industries and occupations to students enrolled in high schools or public or private institutions of higher education in this state, including opportunities offered during the summer; and

(2) facilitate the uniform award by high schools and public or private institutions of higher education of academic credit to students for the successful completion of those opportunities, where appropriate.

(b) In carrying out its duties under Subsection (a), the

1 commission shall establish the Texas Industry Internship Challenge
2 under which the commission develops and administers a centralized
3 electronic Internet portal through which, in a streamlined,
4 responsive, and user-friendly manner:

5 (1) employers may post information regarding applied
6 workforce learning opportunities described by Subsection (a); and

7 (2) students enrolled in high schools or public or
8 private institutions of higher education in this state may access
9 information regarding and apply for those opportunities.

10 (c) The commission, the commissioner of education, and the
11 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt rules as
12 necessary for the administration of this section.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.