By: Miles S.B. No. 472

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing school districts to provide funding using money received under the Foundation School Program to community-based organizations for purposes of reimbursing private employers for paid internships provided to certain students in career and technology education programs in the district.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.189 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.189. CONTRACT TO REIMBURSE FOR PAID INTERNSHIP. (a) In this section, "community-based organization" has the meaning assigned by Section 303.001, Labor Code.

(b) To encourage private employers to participate with school districts in providing career and technology education to assist students in developing the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for a broad range of career opportunities, the board of trustees of a school district may contract with a community-based organization to:

(1) match students in grade 11 or 12 who are participating in a career and technology education program in the district with paid internships or similar programs provided by private employers; and

(2) reimburse private employers for all or part of the cost of providing paid internships or similar programs to students

described by Subdivision (1) using money provided to the community-based organization by the district.

(c) A contract described by Subsection (b) must:

(1) require each paid internship or similar program provided to the school district's students to primarily promote a public purpose of the district relating to career and technology education;

(2) include provisions under which the school district is granted sufficient control to ensure that the public purpose under Subdivision (1) is accomplished and the district receives a benefit from the contract; and

(3) ensure that each student employed under a paid internship or similar program is paid at least the minimum wage required by law.

(d) In providing money to a community-based organization for purposes of reimbursing a private employer under a contract under Subsection (b), the school district may use money allocated to the district for career and technology education under Section 48.106.

(e) A community-based organization with which a school district contracts under Subsection (b) may serve as the employer of record for a student employed under a paid internship or similar program provided under a contract described by Subsection (b).

(f) Completion of a paid internship or similar program provided under a contract described by Subsection (b) may satisfy a requirement to complete a practicum as part of a school district's career and technology education program.

SECTION 2. Section 48.106(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) At least 55 percent of the funds allocated under this section must be used:

(1) in providing career and technology education programs in grades 7 through 12; or

(2) in providing funding to a community-based organization under a contract entered into under Section 29.189 for purposes of reimbursing private employers for providing paid internships or similar programs to students in career and technology education programs.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.