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SENATE BILL 317

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Craig W. Brandt

AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; CREATING THE YOUTH  
INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF  
WAGES FOR APPRENTICESHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS FOR SIXTEEN- TO  
EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLDS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] YOUTH INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY  
PROGRAM--ELIGIBILITY--APPLICATION--MONITORING AND STANDARDS--  
REPORTING AND EVALUATION.--

A. As used in this section:

(1) "America's job center New Mexico" means a  
regional workforce center established pursuant to the federal  
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support workforce  
development initiatives;

(2) "participant" means a person aged sixteen

1 to eighteen who is a resident of New Mexico and is actively  
2 enrolled in an approved program;

3 (3) "program" means the youth internship  
4 opportunity program; and

5 (4) "registered internships or  
6 apprenticeships" means formal training programs approved by an  
7 America's job center New Mexico.

8 B. The "youth internship opportunity program" is  
9 created in America's job centers New Mexico under the direction  
10 of the local workforce development boards. The program's  
11 purpose is to:

12 (1) increase youth employment opportunities;

13 (2) develop in-demand skills in industries  
14 such as health care, trades, information technology and  
15 agriculture; and

16 (3) foster workforce readiness and enhance New  
17 Mexico's professional and occupational talent pipeline.

18 C. Internships or apprenticeships shall be  
19 registered with the applicable America's job center New Mexico.

20 D. Employers seeking participation in the program  
21 shall submit a job description and meet eligibility  
22 requirements established by the applicable center in  
23 consultation with the applicable local workforce development  
24 boards and the workforce solutions department, including  
25 safety, licensing and insurance requirements.

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underscoring material = new  
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1           E. Youths seeking participation in the program  
2 shall apply through a process that prioritizes:

- 3                   (1) low-income or at-risk youth;  
4                   (2) underserved populations; and  
5                   (3) students enrolled in career technical  
6 education courses during the school year.

7           F. Participants will be employees of the applicable  
8 America's job center New Mexico to work on-site at an approved  
9 employer. The center shall match participants with eligible  
10 employers.

11           G. Participants shall receive an hourly wage of  
12 between fifteen dollars (\$15.00) to seventeen dollars (\$17.00)  
13 per hour, paid biweekly for up to four hundred hours. Biweekly  
14 wage statements shall be processed upon submission of completed  
15 timesheets and employer meetings with the participant's mentor  
16 or supervisor to verify progress. The America's job center New  
17 Mexico shall provide worker's compensation for each  
18 participant.

19           H. Participants are required to achieve measurable  
20 skills or certifications, and employers shall designate  
21 qualified mentors or supervisors for each participant.  
22 Employers shall ensure workplace safety and adhere to all state  
23 labor laws.

24           I. The America's job center New Mexico shall:

- 25                   (1) track and monitor:

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- 1 (a) participant progress and outcomes;  
2 (b) employer satisfaction; and  
3 (c) participants' achievement of  
4 learning objectives;
- 5 (2) collect program data, including:  
6 (a) demographic information of  
7 participants;  
8 (b) the number of registered internships  
9 or apprenticeships completed; and  
10 (c) the industry sectors represented;
- 11 (3) routinely evaluate the program to assess  
12 effectiveness and guide improvements; and  
13 (4) submit annual reports to the governor and  
14 the legislature, including:  
15 (a) total program expenditures and  
16 number of participants; and  
17 (b) participant outcomes, including  
18 employment, certifications earned and post-program activities.

19 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Twenty-five million dollars  
20 (\$25,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
21 workforce solutions department for expenditure in fiscal years  
22 2025 through 2027 for America's job centers New Mexico to  
23 conduct youth internship opportunity programs. Any unexpended  
24 or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year  
25 2027 shall revert to the general fund.

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