



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4409/1  
MPG:amn

## 2023 SENATE BILL 473

September 29, 2023 - Introduced by Senators L. JOHNSON, SMITH and SPREITZER, cosponsored by Representatives HAYWOOD, ANDRACA, BARE, CONLEY, CONSIDINE, DRAKE, GOYKE, MYERS, RATCLIFF, SHELTON and STUBBS. Referred to Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs.

1     **AN ACT** *to create* 20.445 (1) (bn) and 106.135 of the statutes; **relating to:** an  
2             intern placement program administered by the Department of Workforce  
3             Development and making an appropriation.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill requires the Department of Workforce Development to establish a program for the placement of paid interns with Wisconsin businesses. Under the bill, each intern must be at least 18 years old, be enrolled in an institution of higher education, and come from a household whose income does not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty line based on family size. Each intern must be paid a stipend of at least \$15 per hour, which may be paid for up to 20 hours per week of work for work performed during certain periods set forth in the bill that correspond to the academic school year. The bill requires that the stipend be disregarded in establishing household income for purposes of obtaining public benefits under any state program. Additionally, the bill requires DWD to seek to coordinate with the private sector to administer the intern placement program and to provide matching funds for purposes of paying intern stipends. The bill appropriates \$500,000 to DWD for the program.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

**SENATE BILL 473****SECTION 1**

1           **SECTION 1.** 20.445 (1) (bn) of the statutes is created to read:

2           20.445 (1) (bn) *Intern placement program.* A sum sufficient for the intern  
3 stipend paid under s. 106.135 (2) (b). No more than \$500,000 may be expended from  
4 this appropriation.

5           **SECTION 2.** 106.135 of the statutes is created to read:

6           **106.135 Equal opportunity intern program.** (1) In this section,  
7 “low-income household” means a household having an income that does not exceed  
8 300 percent of the federal poverty line based on family size.

9           (2) The department shall establish a program under which it attempts to place  
10 interns with businesses in this state, subject to all of the following requirements:

11           (a) Each intern shall be at least 18 years old, be enrolled in an institution of  
12 higher education, and come from a low-income household.

13           (b) Each intern shall be paid a stipend of at least \$15 per hour for services  
14 provided to the business. The stipend may be paid for up to 20 hours per week of work  
15 under par. (e). The stipend shall be paid from the appropriation under s. 20.445 (1)  
16 (bn) and any matching funds provided under par. (d).

17           (c) The stipend an intern receives under par. (b) shall be disregarded in  
18 establishing household income for purposes of obtaining public benefits under any  
19 state program.

20           (d) The department shall seek to coordinate with private entities to administer  
21 the intern placement program under this section and shall seek matching funds from  
22 nonstate sources for purposes of paying stipends under par. (b).

23           (e) A stipend may be paid to an intern under this section only for work  
24 performed during a 16-week spring term beginning on the 2nd Monday in January,

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1 a 10-week summer term beginning on the first Monday in June, and a 16-week fall  
2 term beginning on the day after Labor Day.

3 (END)