

2014 -- S 2159

=====
LC003683
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE BRIDGE.JOBS PROGRAM BE EXPANDED TO
INCLUDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THAT IT PARTNER WITH THE STATE
APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Crowley, Metts, DiPalma, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: January 29, 2014

Referred To: Senate Labor

1 WHEREAS, Internships are a proven way for students to obtain practical work
2 experience, strengthen their resumes, and learn important soft skills such as punctuality and
3 teamwork. College students who participate in internships are more likely to receive a job offer
4 after graduation, while businesses and organizations are able to access a pipeline of emerging
5 talent; and

6 WHEREAS, bRidge.jobs is a web-based internship resource that matches Rhode Island
7 employers with talented students looking to gain professional experience; and

8 WHEREAS, An initiative of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority's College
9 Planning Center of Rhode Island, bRidge.jobs brings together the combined resources of
10 academia, business, and the community. Through bRidge.jobs, Rhode Island's businesses,
11 institutions of higher education, and other organizations can introduce college students to career
12 opportunities in specialized fields such as business, science, IT, technology, health, design,
13 engineering, and manufacturing; and

14 WHEREAS, Through the bRidge website, employers can post paid or unpaid internships
15 online and directly reach out to a vast and talented pool of students in Rhode Island. This
16 outstanding resource allows college students and recent graduates in the state to sign up and start
17 looking for an appropriate professional learning opportunity in minutes; and

18 WHEREAS, Internships such as those that are communicated through bRidge.jobs are
19 valuable for students who have not yet entered into college. Motivated high school students who

1 want to explore potential careers and understand the opportunities in different industries also
2 stand to benefit from the networking that is made available through bRIde.jobs; and

3 WHEREAS, To create a robust workforce pipeline in Rhode Island, as many career
4 resources as possible need to be provided to our talented high school students; now, therefore be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
7 hereby respectfully requests that bRIde.jobs expand its program to allow interested high school
8 students to access its resources; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate also respectfully requests that bRIde.jobs partner with the
10 Department of Labor and Training's State Apprenticeship Council to ensure collaboration and
11 increase job-embedded opportunities for our youth; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is directed and authorized to send
13 a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rhode
14 Island Student Loan Authority.

=====
LC003683
=====