



LFC Requester: Malone

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date Prepared: February 3 2026

Bill No: HB280

Committee Referrals: HLVMC/HAFC

**Agency Name and Code:** PED - 924

Sponsor: Parajon / Gurrola / Gonzales

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Short Title: YOUTH INTERSHIP PILOT PROJECT

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28		
\$250	None	Nonrecurring	GF

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28	FY29		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY27	FY28	FY29	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: The [HAFC Committee Substitute for House Bill 2](#), contains an appropriation of \$270 thousand to the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) to match contributions from employers for an internship pilot project as well as a \$10 million appropriation to the Public Education Department (PED) for summer internship opportunities for working-age high school students.

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Bill 280 (HB280) would create the Youth Internship Pilot Project to provide grant awards to internship programs that fulfill certain conditions. The program would be administered by DWS. That department would also be required to provide an annual report on grant awards to the Legislative Education Study Committee and appropriate interim committees alongside a final report on the efficacy of the project to the governor and legislature by December 1, 2029.

This bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective May 20, 2026.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill appropriates \$250 thousand from the General Fund to DWS for expenditure in FY27 through FY29 to carry out the purposes of the youth internship project. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of FY29 shall revert to the General Fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to a [2024 Legislative Finance Committee \(LFC\) evaluation](#), DWS supported 1,421 eligible youth with approximately \$7.7 million for on-the-job training, apprenticeships, adult education, and career services. DWS also operates 26 in-person workforce connections centers across the state; yet the LFC reports that engagement with services offered by these centers is declining, particularly since the introduction of online services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [University of Wisconsin-Madison 2017 cumulative research brief](#) notes that there is substantive evidence that internships improve students' employability, academic outcomes, and career crystallization but there is more mixed evidence on employability over the long-term, with little research on wages. However, this study also highlights the importance of mentoring and pay during these experiences. A more recent (2022) study on the effect of paid internships in the [Journal of Child and Adolescent Counseling](#) reinforces the potential of paid internships. Results showed statistically significant increases in both participant career self-efficacy and career decision self-efficacy, suggesting internships may be a viable method for supporting adolescent career development.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HB280 would require the DWS, in applicable circumstances, to coordinate with PED for the provision of credit toward a student's graduation requirements for eligible internships.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

None.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.