Citations Affected: IC 22-4.1.

Synopsis: Indiana youth service program. Establishes the Indiana youth service program (program) to provide high school graduates with the opportunity to learn various skills and participate in nine months of service at host sites throughout Indiana. Establishes the Indiana youth service program fund (fund). Provides that the department of workforce development shall administer the program and the fund.

Effective: July 1, 2019.

Ruckelshaus, Doriot, Ford J.D.

January 3, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Pensions and Labor.
January 16, 2019, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass; reassigned to Committee on Appropriations.
SENATE BILL No. 158

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning labor and safety.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 22-4.1-27 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]:

Chapter 27. Indiana Youth Service Program
Sec. 1. This chapter applies to a student entering grade 12 in 2020 and thereafter.
Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible institution" refers to a postsecondary educational institution that:
   (1) operates in Indiana;
   (2) is either operated by the state or operated as a nonprofit;
   (3) operates an organized program of postsecondary education leading to a technical certificate, nursing diploma, or associate or baccalaureate degree; and
   (4) is accredited by:
      (A) a recognized regional accrediting agency;
      (B) the board for proprietary education under IC 21-18.5-6;
Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the Indiana youth service program established by section 4 of this chapter. Sec. 4. The Indiana youth service program is established to do the following:

(1) Encourage young people to remain in Indiana after graduating from high school.
(2) Provide program participants with the skills that will enable them to successfully make the transition from high school to:
(A) an institution of higher education; or
(B) the workforce.
(3) Provide a model of social engagement for young people, and encourage relationships among young people across diverse communities.
(4) Encourage a culture of civic participation and promote democracy.

The department shall administer the program.

Sec. 5. (a) A selection committee shall review applications and select potential participants for the program as part of a competitive application process. The selection committee shall consist of the following eight (8) members:

(1) The commissioner of the department or the commissioner's designee, who shall serve as chair.
(2) The commissioner of the commission for higher education or the commissioner's designee.
(3) An executive assistant to the governor designated by the governor.
(4) One (1) member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
(5) One (1) member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
(6) One (1) member of the senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.
(7) One (1) member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
(8) A representative of a nonprofit organization that specializes in youth services, appointed by the governor.

(b) The chair of the selection committee shall establish the meeting times and dates for the selection committee.
(c) Each member of the selection committee who is a member of the general assembly is a nonvoting member.

(d) Each member of the selection committee who is not a state employee is entitled to the minimum salary per diem provided by IC 4-10-11-2.1(b). The member is also entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the Indiana department of administration and approved by the budget agency.

(e) Each member of the selection committee who is a state employee but who is not a member of the general assembly is entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the Indiana department of administration and approved by the budget agency.

(f) Each member of the selection committee who is a member of the general assembly is entitled to receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to legislative members of interim study committees established by the legislative council or the legislative services agency.

(g) The expenses of the selection committee shall be paid from the Indiana youth service program fund established under section 13 of this chapter.

Sec. 6. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the selection committee may consider a student's application only if the student meets the following requirements:

(1) Is a resident of Indiana.

(2) Is entering grade 12 at a:

(A) public school, including a charter school;

(B) nonpublic school that is accredited by either the state board of education or a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the state board of education;

or

(C) nonaccredited nonpublic school.

(3) Agrees, in writing, together with the student's custodial parents or guardian, that the student will graduate from a secondary school located in Indiana that meets the admission criteria of an eligible institution.

(b) In addition to a student who meets the minimum requirements under subsection (a), the selection committee may
consider a student who:

1. before or during grade 11 is placed by or with the consent of the department of child services, by a court order, or by a child placing agency in:
   (A) a foster family home;
   (B) the home of a relative or other unlicensed caretaker;
   (C) a child caring institution; or
   (D) a group home;
2. meets the requirements in subsection (a)(1) through (a)(2); and
3. agrees in writing, together with the student's caseworker (as defined in IC 31-9-2-11) or legal guardian, to the conditions set forth in subsection (a)(3).

(c) The selection committee shall consider an applicant's curiosity, work ethic, and enthusiasm for serving others in determining whether the applicant may be selected for consideration as a program participant.

(d) In selecting potential program participants, the selection committee shall strive to ensure that each group of program participants embodies Indiana's socioeconomic, geographic, racial, religious, ethnic, and political diversity.

Sec. 7. (a) A program participant serves in the program for nine (9) months, during which time the participant will be placed on a small team that will serve at three (3) different service host sites throughout Indiana. The teams will spend three (3) months at each site.

(b) Each placement will expose program participants to the diversity of community and workforce challenges facing Indiana.

(c) A program participant is eligible for a monetary stipend in an amount determined by the department. However, a stipend may not exceed nine thousand dollars ($9,000).

Sec. 8. (a) The department shall select entities to serve as service host sites for program participants. The department shall consider:

1. the entity's capacity to engage participants in meaningful work; and
2. the entity's ability to ensure a variety of experiences for participants;
when selecting an entity as a service host site.

(b) The department may also consider the entity's ability to contribute to the costs of hosting program participants, including housing costs, if needed.

(c) In considering the criteria set forth in subsections (a) and (b),
the department shall strive to include a diverse array of entities as service host sites, including but not limited to:

(1) private employers in the areas of:
   (A) advanced manufacturing;
   (B) building and construction;
   (C) health and life sciences;
   (D) information technology and business services;
   (E) transportation and logistics; and
   (F) agriculture;

(2) nonprofit, faith based, and community organizations;

(3) school corporations and charter schools; and

(4) political subdivisions.

Sec. 9. As part of the program, participants must:

(1) attend a one (1) week training and community building orientation experience; and

(2) meet one (1) time per month for an instructional seminar on various aspects of leadership and training in public service, civic life, and employment in Indiana.

Sec. 10. (a) A program participant may be released from completing a term of service for compelling personal circumstances, as determined by the department, or for cause.

(b) Compelling personal circumstances include those circumstances beyond the program participant's control, including:

(1) a participant's disability or serious illness;

(2) a family member's disability, serious illness, or death; or

(3) conditions attributable to the program or otherwise unforeseeable and beyond the program participant's control, such as a natural disaster, a strike, or the relocation of a spouse.

(c) Compelling personal circumstances do not include leaving the program:

(1) to enroll in school;

(2) to obtain employment; or

(3) because of dissatisfaction with the program.

(d) A release for cause encompasses any circumstance other than compelling personal circumstances that warrants an individual's release from completing a term of service. The department must release for cause a program participant who is convicted of a felony or for the sale or distribution of a controlled substance (as defined in IC 35-48-1-9) during the participant's term of service.
Sec. 11. (a) The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter.

(b) The department shall establish guidelines regarding the administration of the program, including the following:
   (1) Staff hiring decisions.
   (2) The number of students selected to participate in the program each year.
   (3) Procedures used by the selection committee.
   (4) Coordination of the selection process for program participants and service host sites.
   (5) Communication with service host sites.
   (6) Coordination of housing and food for program participants.
   (7) Recruitment of speakers for monthly seminars.
   (8) Creation and tracking of outcome measures for community engagement.

Sec. 12. The department shall explore the possibility of:
   (1) accessing federal or other grant funding for the program; and
   (2) awarding program participants with academic credit, certification, or scholarships for service in the program.

Sec. 13. (a) The Indiana youth service program fund is established to provide the financial resources necessary to fund the program, which include the following:
   (1) Staff salaries.
   (2) The cost of outreach efforts to advertise the program to potential program participants and potential service host sites.
   (3) Food, transportation, housing, and the stipend for program participants, which may be offset by service host sites.
   (4) The cost of the orientation week and monthly seminars.

(b) The department shall administer the fund.

(c) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(d) The fund consists of the following:
   (1) Appropriations by the general assembly.
   (2) Donations, gifts, grants, and bequests to the fund.
   (3) Earnings on assets of the fund.
   (4) Money transferred to the fund from other funds.
   (5) Money from any other source deposited in the fund.

(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money not currently
needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as
other public funds may be invested.

(f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not
revert to the state general fund but remains available to the
department for expenditures consistent with this chapter.

Sec. 14. (a) The department shall maintain complete and
accurate records in implementing the program and the Indiana
youth service program fund, including records of the following:

(1) The receipt, disbursement, and uses of money from the
fund, including the number and amount of stipends awarded
under the program.

(2) The number of applicants for the program.

(3) The entities with which program participants are placed.

(4) The institutions, if any, that awarded academic credit for
a program participant's service.

(5) Any other information collected concerning the fund or
the program.

(b) Not later than November 1, 2019, and each November 1
thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the governor
and, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, to the general
assembly summarizing activities described in subsection (a) from
the previous year.

Sec. 15. This chapter expires July 1, 2024.
COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Pensions and Labor, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 158, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 2, after line 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:
"(c) Each member of the selection committee who is a member of the general assembly is a nonvoting member.

(d) Each member of the selection committee who is not a state employee is entitled to the minimum salary per diem provided by IC 4-10-11-2.1(b). The member is also entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the Indiana department of administration and approved by the budget agency.

(e) Each member of the selection committee who is a state employee but who is not a member of the general assembly is entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the Indiana department of administration and approved by the budget agency.

(f) Each member of the selection committee who is a member of the general assembly is entitled to receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to legislative members of interim study committees established by the legislative council or the legislative services agency.

(g) The expenses of the selection committee shall be paid from the Indiana youth service program fund established under section 13 of this chapter."

and when so amended that said bill do pass and be reassigned to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

(Reference is to SB 158 as introduced.)

BOOTS, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 6, Nays 5.