

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1311  
By: Moncrief  
Finance  
4-4-97  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, there is no source of state funding to assist students who wish to participate in unpaid Washington, D.C. internships. There are concerns that this lack of funding may provide a serious deterrent to those students from low- to middle-income families. This bill would establish the Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern Scholarship Program to finance Washington, D.C. internships for students from low- to middle-income families.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 1311 creates a Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern Scholarship Program, administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to finance Washington, D.C. internships for low- to middle-income students.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under SECTION 1 (Section 56.226, Education Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 56, Education Code, to add a Subchapter L, as follows:

#### **SUBCHAPTER L. TEXAS-WASHINGTON, D.C. INTERN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Sec. 56.221. PROGRAM NAME. Provides that the student financial assistance program authorized by this subchapter is known as the Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern Scholarship Program (program) and a grant awarded under this chapter is known as a Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern grant.

Sec. 56.222. PURPOSE. Provides that the purpose of this subchapter is to provide a grant of money to enable a qualified person enrolled in an institution of higher education to participate in a Washington, D.C. internship program.

Sec. 56.223. ELIGIBLE PERSON. Sets forth eligibility requirements for a Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern grant. Provides that a person is not eligible to receive a Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern grant under certain conditions.

Sec. 56.224. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (coordinating board) to provide a Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern grant to an eligible person enrolled in an institution of higher education based on the financial need of that person. Prohibits the total amount of Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern grants distributed by the coordinating board from exceeding the amount appropriated for the program.

Sec. 56.225. PAYMENT OF GRANT; AMOUNT. Sets forth requirements for the coordinating board upon receipt of a person's Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern grant application, an enrollment report from the institution of higher education enrolling the person

providing the coordinating board with the information the board requires to determine the person's eligibility, and a certification of the amount of financial need from the institution of higher education.

Sec. 56.226. ADOPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF RULES. Requires the coordinating board to adopt rules to administer this subchapter. Requires the coordinating board to distribute to each institution of higher education copies of all rules adopted under this subchapter.

Sec. 56.227. FUNDING. Authorizes the coordinating board to accept gifts and grants from many public or private source for purposes of this subchapter. Provides that Texas-Washington, D.C. Intern grants are payable from gifts, grants, and funds appropriated by the legislature.

SECTION 2. (a) Effective date: September 1, 1997.

(b) Requires the coordinating board to make grants under the program beginning with the 1998 fall semester.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.