



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 554**

*January Session, 2011*

House Bill No. 6514

*House of Representatives, April 18, 2011*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. MORIN of the 28th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE INTERN PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2-81 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 There is created a Committee for Legislative Staff Internships which  
4 shall consist of six representatives appointed at the time of  
5 appointment of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
6 by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and six senators  
7 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate to serve for the  
8 terms for which they were elected. Not more than one-half of the  
9 members of said committee from each house shall be members of the  
10 same political party. Members of said committee shall receive no  
11 compensation for their services as such but shall be reimbursed for  
12 necessary expenses in performance of their duties. [On and after  
13 January 1, 1981, the members of said committee shall elect from among  
14 their members] There shall be two cochairpersons, one of whom shall

15 be a member of the Senate and one of whom shall be a member of the  
16 House of Representatives, each appointed by the applicable appointing  
17 authority, provided the cochairpersons shall not be members of the  
18 same political party and shall be from alternate parties in the  
19 respective houses in each successive term. For purposes of this section,  
20 "appointing authority" means the speaker or minority leader of the  
21 House of Representatives and the president pro tempore or minority  
22 leader of the Senate, as appropriate according to the respective house  
23 and party of the member to be appointed.

24 Sec. 2. Section 2-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

26 The agencies of the Legislative Department and the State Librarian  
27 shall assist the committee on request, [and the committee shall appoint  
28 a secretary from one of said agencies.] Said committee shall recruit,  
29 select, supervise and appoint interns and assign them to [legislative  
30 committees, legislative agencies or to] members of the General  
31 Assembly to assist in the performance of their duties. Said committee  
32 shall coordinate the legislative intern program with the public and  
33 private institutions of higher education in Connecticut. Said committee  
34 shall have the authority to make application for and receive grants  
35 from any governmental agency and any charitable foundation. Said  
36 committee shall have such other powers as may be necessary to carry  
37 out the purposes of this chapter.

38 Sec. 3. Section 2-83 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
39 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

40 Such interns shall be appointed for [nine to twelve-month terms] the  
41 duration of the spring semester of such interns' institution of higher  
42 education, and may continue to serve for the duration of the regular  
43 session of the General Assembly or any subsequent special sessions of  
44 the General Assembly. The committee shall (1) appoint a program  
45 coordinator, (2) authorize the expenses of administration of the  
46 program, and (3) pay at least one-half of the stipend awarded to such  
47 interns, the remainder of such stipend to be paid out of appropriations

48 to the committee therefor.

49 Sec. 4. Section 2-84 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
50 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

51 Said committee shall give an oral report annually to each house of  
52 the General Assembly [on or before the second day of January of the  
53 odd-numbered years] concerning the operation of the internship  
54 program for the current regular session, at a time prior to the last day  
55 of such session.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	2-81
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	2-82
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	2-83
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	2-84

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which conforms statute to current practice related to the legislative intern program, has no fiscal impact.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6514*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE INTERN PROGRAM.***

This bill makes several changes to the statutes governing the legislative intern program to reflect its current operation. It provides that the cochairpersons of the internship committee be appointed by (1) either the House speaker or minority leader, as appropriate, and (2) either the Senate president pro tempore or minority leader, as appropriate, and not by the committee members themselves. Under current law, unchanged by the bill, the committee's cochairpersons (1) may not be from the same party and (2) must be from alternate parties in the respective houses in each successive term.

With respect to interns' service, the bill specifies that they (1) are only assigned to legislators, not to legislative committees or agencies, and (2) serve during the spring semester for the duration of the regular session or any subsequent sessions and not for a nine-12 month term as current law states.

Lastly, the bill specifies that the internship committee must provide an annual, oral report to each house of the General Assembly before the last day of the regular session. It also eliminates a requirement for the committee to appoint a secretary from either the legislative department or the state library. Current law provides for the committee to report to the legislature on or before January 2 of odd-numbered years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/30/2011)