

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

H

1

HOUSE BILL 565

Short Title: Washington Center Internship Program/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives K. Hall, Saine, Hardister, and D. Hall (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations, Education, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 4, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NORTH
2 CAROLINA STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE
3 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNSHIP
4 PROGRAM AT THE WASHINGTON CENTER FOR INTERNSHIPS AND ACADEMIC
5 SEMINARS.
6

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** Scholarship program established. – Within the funds made available
9 pursuant to this act, the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) shall administer a
10 scholarship program for the award of scholarship grants to students who are residents of North
11 Carolina and are enrolled in their second year or higher in a constituent institution of The
12 University of North Carolina to attend a semester or summer term internship program at the
13 Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (Washington Center) located in
14 Washington, D.C. The Authority shall administer the scholarship program pursuant to guidelines
15 and procedures established by the Authority consistent with its practices for administering
16 State-funded financial aid. The guidelines and procedures shall include an application process
17 and schedule, notification and disbursement procedures, standards for reporting, and standards
18 for return of funds when a student withdraws from the program. A student who meets the
19 eligibility criteria of the Washington Center to attend a semester or summer term internship
20 program may apply to the Authority for a grant to cover costs related to the internship program
21 in an amount of up to seven thousand dollars (\$7,000). The Authority shall award grants to
22 students in the order in which applications are received.

23 **SECTION 2.** Limitations on grant amount. – If a student, who is eligible for a grant
24 pursuant to this act, also receives a scholarship or other grant covering the cost of attendance of
25 the program, then the amount of the State grant shall be reduced by an appropriate amount
26 determined by the Authority. The Authority shall reduce the amount of the grant so that the sum
27 of all grants and scholarship aid covering the cost of attendance shall not exceed the cost of
28 attendance for the program, including program fees, housing, and incidental costs. The cost of
29 attendance shall be established by the Authority in accordance with information provided to the
30 Authority by the Washington Center.

31 **SECTION 3.** Internship activities. – A student participating in the Washington
32 Center's program shall intern four days a week with a nonprofit corporation, private company,
33 federal agency, or a member of the United States Congress; take an academic class taught by the
34 Washington Center's faculty; participate in academic seminars; participate in career readiness



1 training programs; and be responsible for a final portfolio project outlining work completed
2 during the program. Students from all academic majors can participate and benefit from the
3 program.

4 **SECTION 4.** Funds for the program. – There is appropriated from the General Fund
5 to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of five hundred thousand
6 dollars (\$500,000) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and the sum of five hundred thousand dollars
7 (\$500,000) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to be allocated to the Authority for the award of
8 scholarship grants in accordance with this act. The Authority may use up to one percent (1%) of
9 the funds appropriated each fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the scholarship
10 program.

11 **SECTION 5.** Reporting. – By March 1, 2021, the Authority, in consultation with the
12 Washington Center, shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the
13 chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, and the chairs
14 of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Education on the implementation
15 of the scholarship program, including the number of participating students and the amount of
16 awards for each semester or summer term by constituent institution.

17 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies beginning with
18 the award of scholarship grants for the 2020 spring academic semester.