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## **Sen. Ghazala Hashmi's Legislation to Support Virginia Students and Small Businesses Passes Unanimously**

RICHMOND, VA — Today, Senator Ghazala Hashmi's (D-Chesterfield) legislation to increase the talent pool for employers and allow more students to participate in internships passed the House of Delegates 100-0 after previously passing the Senate 40-0. Within Virginia, students and small employers are often left out of internship experiences due to a lack of financial support and structured programming. [SB 667](#) directs the State Council on Higher Education (SCHEV) to partner with the Office of Education and Labor Market Alignment to collect and use data to expand access to financial aid and work/study programs for student interns. SCHEV will provide more support services for small employers and incentives to hire interns, in addition to the already existing resources of the [Innovative Internship Program](#).

“Work-based learning provides opportunities for students to expand their knowledge and gain critical skills for future employment, while increasing the talent pool for Virginia’s small businesses, many of which are struggling to find staff in today’s tight labor market,” said Senator Hashmi. “SB 667 will help Virginia students and employers thrive by increasing access to financial aid for those who would normally not have financial means to participate in work-based learning programs.”

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