



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5159

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT FUNDING JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIPS FOR GRADUATES
OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "local news organization" means a news organization, as defined in
3 section 54-33i of the general statutes, that is located in the state.

4 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
5 thereafter, the Office of Policy and Management shall enter into a
6 memorandum of understanding with a student journalism collaborative
7 for such collaborative to establish a journalism fellowship program to
8 fund not fewer than twelve journalism fellowships at one or more local
9 news organizations. The memorandum of understanding shall specify
10 the (1) minimum requirements for a fellowship funded under such
11 program, including, but not limited to, opportunities for (A) a
12 mentorship from experienced journalists and editors, (B) direct work
13 experience, and (C) professional networking, (2) eligibility requirements
14 for individuals to qualify for such journalism fellowships, including, but
15 not limited to, (A) graduating from a journalism degree program at a
16 public institution of higher education in the state, and (B) interviewing
17 with and being approved by the local news organization providing such
18 fellowship, (3) amount at which such fellowships shall be funded, and
19 (4) requirement for the collaborative to post, not later than September 1,

20 2026, in a conspicuous location on its Internet web site (A) a description
21 of the journalism fellowship program, including, but not limited to, the
22 amount of funding available for each fellowship under such program,
23 (B) the minimum requirements and eligibility requirements specified
24 pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, (C) the list of
25 fellowships with funding available under such program, and (D) the
26 application form for such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section

HED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP