

First Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2023)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1382

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AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

SECTION 1. IC 20-20-45.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]:

**Chapter 45.5. Robotics Competition Program**

**Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "allowable expenses" means:**

- (1) payment of a stipend for a robotics team mentor;
- (2) fees, kits, and supplies required to:
  - (A) establish or maintain a robotics team; or
  - (B) participate in a robotics competition; and
- (3) event registrations, materials, transportation costs, travel costs, and other expenses associated with attendance at a robotics competition.

**Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible school" means a:**

- (1) public school, including a charter school (as defined in IC 20-24-1-4); or
- (2) state accredited nonpublic school.

**Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "eligible team" means a robotics competition team consisting of:**

- (1) students in kindergarten through grade 12 who are enrolled in an eligible school; and
- (2) at least one (1) adult who is a team mentor and team coach.

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**Sec. 4.** As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the robotics competition program fund established by section 8 of this chapter.

**Sec. 5.** As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the robotics competition program established by section 7 of this chapter.

**Sec. 6.** As used in this chapter, "robotics competition" means a competition that:

- (1) requires participating teams to design, construct, program, and operate robots; and
- (2) is sponsored by a nonstock, nonprofit corporation, described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, that has as one (1) of its organizational purposes the goal of encouraging young people to develop an interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

**Sec. 7.** The robotics competition program is established to provide grants to eligible teams to expand opportunities to increase interest and improve skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through participation in competitive robotics programs that:

- (1) provide hands on learning experiences;
- (2) establish community partnerships to increase awareness of local workforce and postsecondary opportunities;
- (3) highlight career opportunities through adult mentors; and
- (4) prioritize a connection to manufacturing, machining, and fabrication skills for students in grades 9 through 12.

**Sec. 8.** The robotics competition program fund is established. The department shall use money in the fund to provide grants to eligible teams to develop and implement competitive robotics programs.

**Sec. 9. (a)** The fund consists of the following:

- (1) Appropriations from the general assembly.
- (2) Gifts to the fund.
- (3) Grants, including grants from private entities.
- (4) Other state funds that are transferred to the fund.

**(b)** The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

**(c)** The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited into the fund.

**(d)** Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not



revert to the state general fund.

**Sec. 10.** Subject to appropriation by the general assembly, the department shall administer the program and fund.

**Sec. 11. (a)** Beginning July 1, 2023, an eligible team may apply to the department to receive a grant from the fund on a form provided by the department.

**(b)** To receive a grant, an eligible team must show proof of the following in its application:

- (1)** A partnership for the purposes of a robotics competition with at least one (1) sponsor, business entity, higher education institution, or technical school.
- (2)** An adult robotics team mentor.
- (3)** A spending plan.
- (4)** A commitment to compete in a robotics competition.
- (5)** For grades 9 through 12, a commitment to creating an original, iteratively designed robot.
- (6)** A local in kind or cash match from other private or local funds in an amount equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of the awarded grant.

**Sec. 12. (a)** The department shall develop guidelines to award grants, after June 30, 2023, to eligible teams for allowable expenses. The guidelines developed by the department must include a maximum grant award allotment for each eligible team based on the:

- (1)** level of programming; and
- (2)** level of competition;

of various robotics competitions as determined by the department.

**(b)** The department shall award grants in a manner that maximizes the number of eligible teams that will be able to receive funds, with an emphasis on increasing the number of high school teams, and that expands the geographical distribution of eligible teams.

**Sec. 13.** The department shall establish guidelines to accommodate the participation of students with disabilities on an eligible team or in a robotics competition.

**Sec. 14.** The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President of the Senate

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President Pro Tempore

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Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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