

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 248

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FITZWATER.

0629H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the establishment of a statewide STEM career awareness program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 620.2700, to read as follows:

620.2700. 1. Subject to appropriation, the department of economic development, through the division of workforce development, shall establish a statewide program to be known as the "STEM Career Awareness Program" to increase STEM career awareness among students in grades six through eight. For purposes of this section, "STEM" means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

2. The department of economic development shall implement the statewide program beginning in the 2018-19 school year. The program shall introduce students to a wide variety of STEM careers and technology through an online-based STEM curriculum.

3. Prior to January 1, 2018, the department of economic development shall solicit proposals and select a provider for the online program. The program selected shall meet the following criteria:

(1) The program introduces students to a wide variety of STEM careers and technologies, including curriculum explicitly focused on more than eighty different careers and technologies;

(2) The curriculum is organized around the concept of solving societal or human-centered problems, instead of focusing solely on scientific concepts. The

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 curriculum shall have at least ten different problems that emphasize different career
19 clusters;

20 (3) The curriculum is designed for flexible implementation in a wide variety of
21 classrooms, including science, math, English, and social studies, through lessons that
22 emphasize the application of STEM careers in these contexts;

23 (4) The curriculum demonstrates how math and language skills appropriate to
24 middle schools are utilized by STEM careers, making classroom instruction relevant to
25 students interested in STEM careers;

26 (5) The program utilizes game-based elements to encourage engagement and
27 competition with students and teams, including automated online leaderboards;

28 (6) The program rewards students in the game format for accomplishment in
29 demonstrating the application of math and language skills in the contexts of the STEM
30 careers and technologies;

31 (7) The program automatically produces analytic reports for individual students
32 and for classes, including analysis of performance against individual math and language
33 skills objectives;

34 (8) The curriculum is available in a self-paced format over the internet, allowing
35 access to students through individual student accounts anywhere that the student can
36 access the internet;

37 (9) The curriculum includes a narrative soundtrack accompanying and matching
38 all instructional text to assist students in developing reading skills in the context of STEM
39 careers;

40 (10) The program has a validation from a national, third-party nonprofit
41 organization that the program increases STEM career awareness and interest;

42 (11) The program shall be listed as a recommended STEM resource in ACT's
43 "Condition of STEM" 2015 report; and

44 (12) The program includes web-based professional development for school staff.

45 4. Notwithstanding subsections 2 and 3 of this section, the department of economic
46 development may choose a third-party nonprofit entity to implement the statewide
47 program and solicit proposals and select a provider as described under subsection 3 of this
48 section.

49 5. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "STEM Career Awareness
50 Program Fund". The fund shall consist of any appropriations to such fund. The state
51 treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180,
52 the state treasurer may approve disbursements of public moneys in accordance with
53 distribution requirements and procedures developed by the department of economic

54 development. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the
55 fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section.

56 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys
57 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
58 general revenue fund.

59 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other
60 funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited
61 to the fund.

62 6. The department of economic development may promulgate all necessary rules
63 and regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
64 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this
65 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions
66 of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
67 nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to
68 chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
69 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule
70 proposed or adopted after August 28, 2017, shall be invalid and void.

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