

HOUSE RESOLUTION 192

By Love

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has made significant progress in advancing a bold education reform plan and is recognized as a leader in the nation in its efforts to dramatically improve student achievement; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the governor established the Tennessee Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Innovation Network through the Race to the Top funding to promote and expand the teaching and learning of STEM education in K-12 public schools across the state; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network is a unique public-private collaboration between the Tennessee Department of Education and Battelle Memorial Institute and serves as the state's primary vehicle for aligning STEM policies, practices, and partners; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network supports the expansion of STEM education statewide and created partnerships among K-12 schools and districts, institutions of higher education, businesses, community organizations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network established six regional hubs and nine STEM platform schools across the state which serve as a national model in STEM education that draw upon the richness and diversity of Tennessee's STEM assets; and

WHEREAS, these efforts have led to strong improvement for students, including an additional 91,000 students being proficient in K-12 math and nearly 10,000 being more proficient in Algebra II since 2011; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card, Tennessee is one of the fastest-improving states in the nation in terms of student achievement outcomes in fourth and eighth grade reading and math; and

WHEREAS, while Tennessee students made great gains on NAEP between 2011 and 2013, state scores are still below the national average, and on international assessments, Tennessee ranks 80th in math among 116 countries and the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the number of Tennessee workers holding degrees or credentials in STEM-related areas is not meeting the current demand from Tennessee companies, and STEM education is a vital part of the "Drive to 55"; and

WHEREAS, much work remains to be done to help Tennessee students become competitive with their peers across the state, nation, and world and to develop 21st century skills in critical thinking, problem solving, innovation, and collaboration essential to the state's emerging innovation economy; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network is working to increase student interest, participation, and achievement in STEM; expand student access to effective STEM teachers and leaders; reduce the state's STEM talent and skills gap; and build community awareness and support for STEM in order for Tennessee's students to lead the nation in STEM knowledge and skills; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee provides generous incentives to attract STEM businesses to locate in Tennessee and employ Tennesseans in STEM careers; and

WHEREAS, businesses can assist in the promotion of STEM college and career readiness by becoming active members of the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network in their local regions and by providing in-kind and financial support for the efforts of the STEM hubs and the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize

the efforts of the Tennessee Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Innovation Network and its regional hubs and platform schools across the state and their work to ensure that all Tennessee students have access to quality STEM education and graduate from high school prepared for college and the workforce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.