

SENATE BILL NO. 535

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FITZWATER.

1733S.02I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to STEM career awareness.

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

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 161.264, to read as
3 follows:

161.264. 1. Subject to appropriation, the department
2 of elementary and secondary education shall establish a
3 statewide program to be known as the "STEM Career Awareness
4 Activity Program" to increase STEM career awareness among
5 students in grades nine through twelve. For the purposes of
6 this section, "STEM" means science, technology, engineering,
7 and mathematics.

8 2. The department of elementary and secondary
9 education shall promote the statewide program beginning in
10 the 2024-25 school year. The program shall introduce
11 students in grades nine through twelve to a wide variety of
12 STEM careers and technology through an activity program that
13 involves participating in STEM-related activities at state,
14 national, or international competitions.

15 3. By January 1, 2024, the department of elementary
16 and secondary education shall solicit proposals to provide
17 the activity program. By March 1, 2024, the department of

18 elementary and secondary education shall select a provider
19 for the program.

20 (1) The department shall select a provider that
21 presents quantitative or qualitative data demonstrating the
22 effectiveness of the program in any of the following areas:

23 (a) Helping teachers improve their instruction in STEM-
24 related subjects;

25 (b) Increasing the likelihood that students will go on
26 to study a STEM-related subject at a four-year college upon
27 graduation from high school; or

28 (c) Increasing the likelihood that students will enter
29 the STEM workforce upon graduation from high school or
30 college.

31 (2) The department shall select a provider that
32 delivers a program that meets the following criteria:

33 (a) Provides an activity program that is led by
34 teachers who are fully certified to teach in STEM-related
35 subjects in grades nine through twelve under the laws
36 governing the certification of teachers in Missouri; and

37 (b) Facilitates a cohort of students in grades nine
38 through twelve to participate in STEM-related activities at
39 state, national, or international competitions.

40 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 2 and
41 3 of this section to the contrary, the department of
42 elementary and secondary education may choose a third-party
43 nonprofit entity to implement the statewide program, solicit
44 proposals, and select a provider as described under
45 subsection 3 of this section.

46 5. There is hereby created in the state treasury the
47 "STEM Career Awareness Activity Fund". The fund shall
48 consist of any appropriations, gifts, bequests, or public or
49 private donations to such fund. The state treasurer shall

50 be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections
51 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve
52 disbursements of public moneys in accordance with
53 distribution requirements and procedures developed by the
54 department of elementary and secondary education. The fund
55 shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in
56 the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this
57 section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
58 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end
59 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
60 general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest
61 moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
62 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such
63 investments shall be credited to the fund.

64 6. The department of elementary and secondary
65 education may promulgate all necessary rules and regulations
66 for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion
67 of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that
68 is created under the authority delegated in this section
69 shall become effective only if it complies with and is
70 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if
71 applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536
72 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the
73 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay
74 the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
75 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
76 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after
77 August 28, 2023, shall be invalid and void.

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