

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Ways and Means

This bill changes the law regarding the Missouri Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fund. Missouri taxpayers who hire a STEM student attending a Missouri college for an internship in Missouri, or a STEM graduate from a Missouri college for a full-time STEM position in Missouri, may apply to have \$10,000 of state tax liability placed in the fund, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly and approval by the Department of Higher Education. The cumulative amount of taxes transferred to the fund is capped at an annual total of \$200,000.

The bill removes endowed teaching professor programs and career enhancement programs from the list of programs eligible for moneys from the fund.

Subject to appropriation, this bill establishes the "Stem Career Awareness Program" within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to increase STEM career awareness for students in grades six through eight. The program is an online-based STEM curriculum that introduces students to a wide variety of STEM careers and technology. DESE shall promote the statewide program beginning with the 2019-20 school year. Before January 1, 2019, DESE shall select a program provider that meets the criteria specified in the bill

The bill creates the "STEM Career Awareness Program Fund." The fund shall consist of appropriations, gifts, bequests, or public or private donations and, upon appropriation, the fund shall be used solely for the administration of these provisions.