

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NOS. 502 & 887
102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1450H.02C

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 9.138, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to science, technology, engineering, and math career promotion.

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

Section A. Section 9.138, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 9.138 and 161.264, to read as follows:

9.138. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the first week of March as [~~"Math, Engineering, Technology and Science (METS) Week"~~] "**Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Week**", and recommending to the people of the state that the week be appropriately observed through activities that will result in an increased awareness of the importance of advancing community interest in [~~math, engineering, technology, and science~~] **science, technology, engineering, and math** programs, and promote [~~METS~~] **STEM** careers statewide in order to advance Missouri's workforce. The proclamation shall also recommend that the week be observed with appropriate activities in public schools. Public and private involvement in [~~METS~~] **STEM** week demonstrates that fostering and encouraging interest in the sciences is a major factor in determining growth and success in school and will help students develop a focus on technology-based careers after graduation.

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

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.

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

11 **3. (1) By January 1, 2024, the department of elementary and secondary**
12 **education shall solicit proposals to provide the activity program. By March 1, 2024, the**
13 **department of elementary and secondary education shall select a provider for the**
14 **program.**

15 **(2) The department shall select a provider that presents quantitative or**
16 **qualitative data demonstrating the effectiveness of the program in any of the following**
17 **areas:**

18 **(a) Helping teachers improve their instruction in STEM- related subjects;**

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

21 **(c) Increasing the likelihood that students will enter the STEM workforce upon**
22 **graduation from high school or college.**

23 **(3) The department shall select a provider that delivers a program that meets the**
24 **following criteria:**

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

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

30 **4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 2 and 3 of this section to the**
31 **contrary, the department of elementary and secondary education may choose a third-**
32 **party nonprofit entity to implement the statewide program, solicit proposals, and select**
33 **a provider as described under subsection 3 of this section.**

34 **5. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "STEM Career Awareness**
35 **Activity Fund". The fund shall consist of any appropriations, gifts, bequests, or public**
36 **or private donations to such fund. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In**
37 **accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve**
38 **disbursements of public moneys in accordance with distribution requirements and**
39 **procedures developed by the department of elementary and secondary education. The**
40 **fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be**
41 **used solely for the administration of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of**
42 **section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the**

43 **biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer**
44 **shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any**
45 **interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.**

46 **6. The department of elementary and secondary education may promulgate all**
47 **necessary rules and regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or**
48 **portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the**
49 **authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is**
50 **subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This**
51 **section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the**
52 **general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to**
53 **disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of**
54 **rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2023, shall be**
55 **invalid and void.**

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