

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 33**  
**103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

0174H.02C

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

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

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

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

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

**6 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall promote the  
7 statewide program beginning in the 2026-27 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, 2026, the department of elementary and secondary  
12 education shall solicit proposals to provide the activity program. By March 1, 2026, 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;**

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.

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. The state treasurer shall invest moneys  
42 in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys  
43 earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

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