

HCS HB 33 -- STEM CAREER AWARENESS

SPONSOR: Davidson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 33

Subject to appropriations, this bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Program" for grades nine-12. The DESE will begin promoting the program in the 2026-27 school year and solicit proposal to provide the program by January 1, 2026. By March 1, 2026, DESE must select a provider. Alternatively, the bill authorizes DESE to choose a third party nonprofit entity to implement the Program, solicit proposals, and select a provider.

The bill requires prospective providers to present data demonstrating effectiveness in the following areas: teacher instruction on STEM-related subjects; increased student enrollment in four year STEM related fields; or increased participation in STEM related workforce upon graduation. The bill further outlines criteria for program providers.

This bill also creates the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Fund".

This bill is the same as HB 1972 (2024) and as HB 887 (2023).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the STEM fields are in high demand and that many companies are refusing business in Missouri because there are not enough engineers or technology workers to get all the work done. Early exposure to STEM can generate an interest and lead to a increase in students wanting to be in a STEM related field. There has been a five year decline in STEM labor force and the demand is increasing.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Davidson; Sarah Schlemeier, Science Coach, Biostl, Next MO; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Teja Teppala.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.