

HB365 INTRODUCED



1 HB365
2 2JXR3KK-1
3 By Representatives Collins, Baker
4 RFD: Education Policy
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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Alabama Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Council as an independent state entity within the Department of Workforce to advise the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Department of Workforce, State Department of Education, and Legislature on ways to improve STEM-related education, career awareness, and workforce development across the state.

This bill would also provide for the membership, duties, and functions of the council.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Council; to create the council within the Department of Workforce; to provide for the membership of the council, including the executive committee of the council and additional members appointed by the Governor and Secretary of Workforce; to provide for meetings; and to provide for the duties and functions of the council.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:



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29 Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the following
30 terms have the following meanings:

31 (1) COUNCIL or STEM COUNCIL. The Alabama Science,
32 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Council
33 created by this act.

34 (2) DEPARTMENT. The Department of Workforce.

35 (3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The executive committee of the
36 council.

37 (4) STEM. Science, technology, engineering, and math.

38 (5) STEM CAREERS. Careers that utilize concepts from
39 the STEM fields including, but not limited to, engineering,
40 life science, astronomy, physics, chemistry, earth science,
41 math and computing, information science, artificial
42 intelligence, health and medicine, including physicians,
43 nurses, technicians, and social sciences, including political
44 science and economics.

45 (6) STEM EDUCATION. Education that entails more than
46 achieving competency in individual STEM subject areas and
47 requires students to be able to integrate concepts from
48 multiple disciplines and use that knowledge to solve complex
49 problems. The term often includes instructional practices that
50 actively engage all students in an interdisciplinary project
51 or problem-based approach, tied to a real world, authentic
52 challenge through which students use various technologies to
53 assist their inquiry, research, and communication.

54 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Science, Technology,
55 Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Council is established as
56 an independent state entity within the department to advise



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57 the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of Workforce,
58 Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher
59 Education, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System,
60 State Superintendent of Education, Chair of the Alabama
61 Workforce Board, and the Legislature on ways to improve
62 STEM-related education, career awareness, and workforce
63 development across the state.

64 (b) The Chief Workforce Officer of the department shall
65 be responsible for the administrative functions of the council
66 and, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the
67 STEM Council, shall hire an individual employed by the
68 department to serve as the Director of the STEM Council. The
69 director shall serve in that position at the pleasure of the
70 Executive Committee of the STEM Council.

71 Section 3. (a) The membership of the STEM Council shall
72 consist of all of the following:

73 (1) Two members appointed by the Governor with
74 expertise in STEM education or workforce development.

75 (2) Two members appointed by the Secretary of Workforce
76 with expertise in workforce development.

77 (3) The following public officials or their designees:

78 a. The Chair of the Alabama Workforce Board.

79 b. The Secretary of Commerce.

80 c. The Secretary of Early Childhood Education.

81 d. The State Superintendent of Education.

82 e. The Chancellor of the Alabama Community College
83 System.

84 f. The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on



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85 Higher Education.

86 (4) One member appointed by the Governor from each of
87 the state's workforce regions.

88 (5) Additional members appointed by the Governor and
89 Secretary of Workforce as representatives of the state's STEM
90 stakeholders, including STEM industry representatives, formal
91 STEM education organizations, and informal STEM education
92 organizations.

93 (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
94 appointments to assure the council membership is inclusive and
95 reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and
96 economic diversity of the state.

97 (c) STEM Council members shall serve until their
98 successors are appointed. A vacancy shall be filled in the
99 manner provide for the original appointment. An individual
100 appointed to fill a vacancy on the council shall serve only
101 for the remaining unexpired portion of the term.

102 (d) Each council member shall serve at the pleasure of
103 the appointing authority for a four-year renewable term.

104 (e) Members of the STEM Council shall serve without
105 compensation except for reimbursement for reasonable travel
106 and other expenses actually incurred as an incident to their
107 service on the council as approved by the Chair of the STEM
108 Council. Expenses shall be paid using any funds appropriated
109 for use by the council in the same manner as is provided by
110 law for state officers and employees.

111 Section 4. The STEM Council shall have the following
112 committees:



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113 (1) The executive committee. The STEM Council shall be
114 under the direction of an executive committee, consisting of
115 the individuals identified in subdivisions (a)(1), (a)(2), and
116 (a)(4) of Section 3, and shall be led by the Chair of the STEM
117 Council, appointed by the Governor. The business of the
118 council shall be conducted by the executive committee, which
119 may launch initiatives, make final recommendations, approve
120 budgets, evaluate the director, and take any other action in
121 furtherance of the council's purpose and duties, consulting
122 with the other members of the council and the Secretary of
123 Workforce, as it deems appropriate.

124 (2) Additional committees. The chair of the council may
125 form additional committees to address issues concerning the
126 purpose and duties of the council. For each committee formed,
127 the chair shall designate a serving member of the council as
128 committee chair and shall provide for the membership and
129 duties of the committee. Members appointed to additional
130 committees may also be serving as members of the council.

131 Section 5. (a) Regular meetings of the council shall be
132 held at least annually and from time to time at the call of
133 the council chair. Committee meetings shall be held at the
134 call of the committee chair. Members of the council may
135 participate in a meeting of the council by means of telephone
136 conference, video conference, or similar communications
137 equipment by means of which all individuals participating in
138 the meeting may hear each other at the same time.
139 Participation by electronic means shall constitute presence in
140 person at a meeting for all purposes. The council shall



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141 establish procedures and other policies necessary to perform
142 the business of the council, including the establishment of a
143 quorum.

144 (b) All regular and special meetings of the council,
145 including committee meetings, shall comply with the Open
146 Meetings Act.

147 Section 6. The duties of the Director of the STEM
148 Council, with guidance from the council and the Chief
149 Workforce Officer, shall include all of the following:

150 (1) Revise, as needed, and oversee the implementation
151 of the state STEM strategic plan, working in concert with the
152 Alabama Workforce Board's State Strategic Plan.

153 (2) Serve as the primary point of contact for
154 communicating with state and national STEM organizations.

155 (3) Coordinate communication efforts to increase STEM
156 awareness, illustrate the value of STEM learning, and
157 highlight STEM careers across the state.

158 (4) Develop and implement the Governor's STEM "Seal of
159 Approval," using an evidence-based rubric to recognize
160 individual programs or periodic events that advance STEM
161 principles and learning across the state.

162 (5) Develop, implement, and maintain a digital registry
163 of evidence-based and effective STEM instructional and
164 professional learning strategies including summer,
165 after-school, and out-of-school programs, project-based lesson
166 plans, inquiry driven modules, and professional learning
167 opportunities.

168 (6) In collaboration with the Alabama Commission on the



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169 Evaluation of Services, conduct comprehensive, external
170 evaluations, as needed or requested, of STEM-based curricula
171 and educational initiatives that receive funding from the
172 Education Trust Fund, beginning with the Alabama Math,
173 Science, and Technology Initiative; Technology in Motion;
174 Office of Math Improvement; and the Alabama Science in Motion
175 programs. Assessment rubrics should incorporate criteria
176 relevant to the goals and outcomes of each initiative
177 including, but not limited to, the impact on learning,
178 effectiveness of human capital and organizational performance,
179 cost per participant, fidelity of implementation, equitable
180 access, the potential for engendering interest and engagement
181 in STEM activities, and other criteria.

182 (7) Develop continuous improvement plans for the
183 Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative; Technology
184 in Motion; Office of Math Improvement; and the Alabama Science
185 in Motion programs based on the data gathered from the
186 external evaluations.

187 (8) In collaboration with the Alabama Commission on the
188 Evaluation of Services, conduct comprehensive evaluations, as
189 needed or requested, of state preservice preparation and
190 in-service programs for educators teaching STEM subjects,
191 including both traditional and alternate pathways.

192 (9) Expand opportunities for STEM career exploration
193 and discovery, especially among groups that are
194 under-represented in STEM professions.

195 (10) Collaborate with the Alabama Commission on Higher
196 Education, the State Board of Education, and the deans of



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197 two-year and four-year institutions of higher education to
198 develop and enact an effective plan to encourage and support
199 an increase in the number of college students choosing a STEM
200 teaching career.

201 (11) In collaboration with the Alabama Commission on
202 the Evaluation of Services, collect, aggregate, and analyze
203 relevant STEM data to track progress against the state STEM
204 strategic plan, including data from the Alabama Terminal on
205 Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on career pathways,
206 state agencies, including student STEM enrollment, learning,
207 and achievement data, STEM labor market information, and
208 measures of both STEM and STEM career awareness, attitudes,
209 and perceptions from learners across the education and
210 workforce continuum.

211 (12) Collaborate with business and industry in the
212 state to determine current and future STEM workforce needs.

213 (13) Promote in-demand Alabama STEM careers, aligning
214 them with viable educational opportunities.

215 (14) Provide an annual report on progress toward
216 implementing the state STEM strategic plan, with
217 recommendations for improvement, to all of the following:

- 218 a. The Governor.
- 219 b. The Lieutenant Governor.
- 220 c. The Secretary of Workforce.
- 221 d. The State Workforce Board.
- 222 e. The Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 223 f. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- 224 g. The Chairs of the Senate Finance and Taxation



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225 Education and House Ways and Means Education Committees.

226 h. The State Superintendent of Education.

227 i. The Chancellor of the Alabama Community College
228 System.

229 j. The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on
230 Higher Education.

231 (15) Perform other tasks as requested by the Governor,
232 the Secretary of Workforce, and the Legislature.

233 Section 7. (a) The council shall receive
234 administrative, legal, and clerical support from the Chief
235 Workforce Officer of the department.

236 (b) The department may retain the services of outside
237 experts, using funds appropriated for use by the council, on
238 behalf of the council.

239 (c) Upon request of the council, state agencies and
240 other state-funded entities shall cooperate with the council
241 and provide any requested information and data.

242 Section 8. The council may establish a foundation to
243 assist in the development and implementation of the programs
244 to promote STEM education, STEM workforce development, and
245 STEM careers. The foundation may solicit and receive
246 contributions from private organizations to accomplish
247 objectives provided in this act.

248 Section 9. This act shall become effective on October
249 1, 2025.