

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 HOUSE BILL 2959

By: Cockroft

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma-A
8 STEM State of Mind Act; providing for membership;
9 providing for vacancies, meetings, quorum and travel
10 reimbursement; stating duties of advisory committee;
11 providing for ending date; providing for
12 codification; providing an effective date; and
13 declaring an emergency.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.405 of Title 63, unless
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma-A STEM
19 State of Mind Act".

20 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.406 of Title 63, unless
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma STEM Advisory
24 Committee. The advisory committee shall consist of sixteen (16)
members as follows:

1 1. Four individuals appointed by the Governor representing K-12
2 education, career and technology education and higher education, and
3 a statewide organization whose primary purpose is the promotion and
4 support of STEM education and training;

5 2. Six individuals appointed by the President Pro Tempore of
6 the Senate, to include:

7 a. A STEM-related representative from the Oklahoma
8 university system,

9 b. A STEM-related representative from the Oklahoma
10 community college,

11 c. A STEM-related representative from an Oklahoma
12 Technology Center,

13 d. A representative of Oklahoma's business and industry
14 (STEM-related),

15 e. A STEM-related public school teacher, and

16 f. A STEM-related representative from a private Oklahoma
17 university;

18 3. Six individuals appointed by the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives, to include:

20 a. A representative from the Oklahoma Department of
21 Commerce,

22 b. An Oklahoma public school superintendent,

23 c. An Oklahoma technology center superintendent,

24 d. An Oklahoma college or university president,

1 e. A representative from Oklahoma's advanced
2 manufacturing sector (STEM-related), and

3 f. A representative from Oklahoma's healthcare sector.

4 B. Members of the advisory committee shall serve at the
5 pleasure of the appointing authority. Vacancies in a position shall
6 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

7 C. The advisory committee shall hold an organization meeting
8 not later than August 31, 2014.

9 D. The Committee shall select from among its membership a chair
10 and vice-chair.

11 E. A quorum of the members present at a meeting of the advisory
12 committee shall be sufficient to conduct any business or to take any
13 action authorized or required.

14 F. Travel reimbursement for members of the advisory committee
15 shall be made by the respective appointing authorities pursuant to
16 the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

17 G. 1. The advisory committee's first order of business shall
18 be to identify and set forth the criteria by which a community or
19 region shall be eligible for designation as a STEM community/region.
20 Such criteria shall be identified and distributed statewide by
21 October 1, 2014.

22 2. Creation of local STEM communities or regions shall involve
23 creation of local commissions made up of local educators,
24 administrators, business leaders, students, parents, government

1 officials and business and industry groups to create awareness,
2 promote partnerships with education and industry, develop and
3 execute action plans for improving STEM education and training,
4 identify and acquire the needed resources, identify and accumulate
5 various types of STEM data within the community/region, including
6 but not limited to: K-12 test results, number of STEM related
7 degree holders in the local workforce, number of STEM related
8 degrees conferred, number of STEM related certifications/credentials
9 obtained and a final step to recognize and promote successes in both
10 student and teacher accomplishments in the STEM area within the
11 community/region.

12 3. Once the advisory committee has developed appropriate
13 criteria for STEM community/region designation, local legislators
14 shall initiate the designation through an application process
15 outlined by the advisory committee. Official designation as a STEM
16 community/region shall be made by the Governor based upon the
17 criteria set forth by the advisory committee and subsequent
18 nomination by local legislators.

19 H. The advisory committee shall study issues related to the
20 promotion and growth of STEM education and training in Oklahoma, and
21 creation of specific recommendations to deal with the current and
22 pending shortage of highly skilled employees in the aforementioned
23 five major economic industrial sectors. The specific highly skilled
24 areas are jobs such as skilled technicians, STEM teachers and allied

1 health practitioners, including, but not limited to, nurses and
2 doctors, scientists, engineers and engineering technicians.

3 I. The advisory committee shall also study any other matter
4 pertinent to the promotion of STEM workforce development through
5 education and training.

6 J. The advisory committee shall terminate on December 31, 2016.

7 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

8 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
9 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
10 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
11 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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