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February 12, 2018

SENATE BILL NO. 880

By: Sharp of the Senate

and

Kerbs of the House

An Act relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics education; amending Section 2, Chapter 194, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 1210.407), which relates to designation of STEM communities or regions; modifying the entity responsible for the creation, sustainment and execution of certain subcommittee; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 194, O.S.L.
2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 1210.407), is amended to read as
follows:

Section 1210.407. A. 1. There is hereby created a mechanism for establishing criteria and a process for designation as a STEM Community or STEM Region. The STEM Community or STEM Region is one of several recommendations on improving Oklahoma Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in the Governor's Science and Technology Council's "OneOklahoma" report.

1 2. The criteria for designation as a STEM Community or STEM
2 Region shall include a requirement that educators, administrators,
3 business leaders, students, parents, government officials and
4 business and industry groups within a community or region create
5 awareness, promote partnerships with education and industry, develop
6 and execute action plans for improving STEM education and training,
7 identify and acquire the needed resources to improve STEM education
8 and training and identify and accumulate STEM data within the
9 community or region, including but not limited to kindergarten
10 through twelfth grade test results, the number of STEM-related
11 degree holders in the local workforce, the number of STEM-related
12 degrees conferred and the number of STEM-related certifications or
13 credentials obtained. The region or community shall also develop a
14 plan to recognize and promote successes in both student and teacher
15 accomplishments in the STEM area within the community or region.
16 The concept of creating a STEM Community or STEM Region is
17 incorporated in the Department of Education's STEM strategy and will
18 include and support STEM programs in many of the Department of
19 Career and Technology Education's technology centers.

20 3. The process for designation as a STEM Community or STEM
21 Region shall require that state legislators initiate designation of
22 a STEM Community or STEM Region through an application process. The
23 final approval and designation of an Oklahoma STEM Community or STEM
24 Region shall reside with the Governor.

1 4. The application process shall be outlined by a subcommittee
2 of an existing STEM education or workforce committee or board, to be
3 identified by the Governor. The creation, sustainment and execution
4 of the subcommittee shall be the responsibility of the ~~Coalition for~~
5 ~~the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education in Oklahoma~~
6 ~~(CASMEO)~~ Department of Career and Technology Education. The
7 application process shall be based on criteria established by the
8 subcommittee.

9 B. The subcommittee shall also study issues related to the
10 promotion and growth of STEM education and training in the state and
11 create specific recommendations to address the current and pending
12 shortage of highly skilled employees in the energy, agriculture and
13 biosciences, aerospace and defense, transportation and distribution
14 and information technology and financial services sectors in
15 Oklahoma.

16 C. The subcommittee shall submit a report of its findings and
17 recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the
18 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on an annual
19 basis.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2018.

21 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
23
24

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
4 February 12, 2018 - DO PASS
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