

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

SENATE BILL 880

By: Sharp

AS INTRODUCED

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.

2. The criteria for designation as a STEM Community or STEM Region shall include a requirement that educators, administrators,

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

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

23 4. The application process shall be outlined by a subcommittee
24 of an existing STEM education or workforce committee or board, to be

1 identified by the Governor. The creation, sustainment and execution
2 of the subcommittee shall be the responsibility of the ~~Coalition for~~
3 ~~the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education in Oklahoma~~
4 ~~(CASMEO)~~ Department of Career and Technology Education. The
5 application process shall be based on criteria established by the
6 subcommittee.

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

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

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

19 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
20 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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