

HB365 ENGROSSED



1 HB365
2 TBBQ299-2
3 By Representatives Collins, Baker
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 27-Feb-25



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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:

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

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

(2) DEPARTMENT. The Department of Workforce.

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

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

(5) STEM CAREERS. Careers that utilize concepts from
the STEM fields including, but not limited to, engineering,
life science, astronomy, physics, chemistry, earth science,



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math and computing, information science, artificial intelligence, health and medicine, including physicians, nurses, technicians, and social sciences, including political science and economics.

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

Section 2. (a) The Alabama Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Council is established as a state entity within the department to advise the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of Workforce, Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, State Superintendent of Education, Chair of the Alabama Workforce Board, and the Legislature on ways to improve STEM-related education, career awareness, and workforce development across the state.

(b) The Chief of the Workforce Pathways Division of the department shall be responsible for the administrative functions of the council and, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the STEM Council, shall hire an individual employed by the department to serve as the Director



of the STEM Council. The director shall serve in that position at the pleasure of the Executive Committee of the STEM Council.

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

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

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

(3) The following public officials or their designees:

a. The Chair of the Alabama Workforce Board.

b. The Secretary of Commerce.

c. The Secretary of Early Childhood Education.

d. The State Superintendent of Education.

e. The Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System.

f. The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

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

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

(b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments to assure the council membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and



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85 economic diversity of the state.

86 (c) STEM Council members shall serve until their
87 successors are appointed. A vacancy shall be filled in the
88 manner provide for the original appointment. An individual
89 appointed to fill a vacancy on the council shall serve only
90 for the remaining unexpired portion of the term.

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

93 (e) Members of the STEM Council shall serve without
94 compensation except for reimbursement for reasonable travel
95 and other expenses actually incurred as an incident to their
96 service on the council as approved by the Chair of the STEM
97 Council. Expenses shall be paid using any funds appropriated
98 for use by the council in the same manner as is provided by
99 law for state officers and employees.

100 Section 4. The STEM Council shall have the following
101 committees:

102 (1) The executive committee. The STEM Council shall be
103 under the direction of an executive committee, consisting of
104 the individuals identified in subdivisions (a)(1), (a)(2), and
105 (a)(4) of Section 3, and shall be led by the Chair of the STEM
106 Council, appointed by the Governor. The business of the
107 council shall be conducted by the executive committee, which
108 may launch initiatives, make final recommendations, approve
109 budgets, evaluate the director, and take any other action in
110 furtherance of the council's purpose and duties, consulting
111 with the other members of the council and the Secretary of
112 Workforce, as it deems appropriate.



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

Section 5. (a) Regular meetings of the council shall be held at least annually and from time to time at the call of the council chair. Committee meetings shall be held at the call of the committee chair. Members of the council may participate in a meeting of the council by means of telephone conference, video conference, or similar communications equipment by means of which all individuals participating in the meeting may hear each other at the same time. Participation by electronic means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting for all purposes. The council shall establish procedures and other policies necessary to perform the business of the council, including the establishment of a quorum.

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

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

(1) Revise, as needed, and oversee the implementation of the state STEM strategic plan, working in concert with the



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Alabama Workforce Board's State Strategic Plan.

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

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

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

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

(6) In collaboration with the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services, conduct comprehensive, external evaluations, as needed or requested, of STEM-based curricula and educational initiatives that receive funding from the Education Trust Fund, beginning with the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative; Technology in Motion; Office of Math Improvement; and the Alabama Science in Motion programs. Assessment rubrics should incorporate criteria relevant to the goals and outcomes of each initiative including, but not limited to, the impact on learning, effectiveness of human capital and organizational performance, cost per participant, fidelity of implementation, equitable



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access, the potential for engendering interest and engagement in STEM activities, and other criteria.

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

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

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

(10) Collaborate with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the State Board of Education, and the deans of two-year and four-year institutions of higher education to develop and enact an effective plan to encourage and support an increase in the number of college students choosing a STEM teaching career.

(11) In collaboration with the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services and the Office of Education and Workforce Statistics, collect, aggregate, and analyze relevant STEM data to track progress against the state STEM strategic plan, including data from the Alabama Terminal on Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on career pathways, state agencies, including student STEM enrollment, learning, and



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achievement data, STEM labor market information, and measures of both STEM and STEM career awareness, attitudes, and perceptions from learners across the education and workforce continuum.

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

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

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

- a. The Governor.
- b. The Lieutenant Governor.
- c. The Secretary of Workforce.
- d. The State Workforce Board.
- e. The Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- f. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- g. The Chairs of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education and House Ways and Means Education Committees.
- h. The State Superintendent of Education.
- i. The Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System.
- j. The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

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

Section 7. (a) The council shall receive administrative, legal, and clerical support from the Chief of



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the Workforce Pathways Division of the department.

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

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

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

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



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House of Representatives

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245 committee on Education Policy
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248 on the calendar:
249 1 amendment
250
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252 as amended
253 Yeas 102
254 Nays 0
255 Abstains 0
256
257

258 John Treadwell
259 Clerk
260