

SENATE BILL NO. 976

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FITZWATER.

3508S.02I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to technological education in public schools.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 two new sections, to be known as sections 161.264 and 161.265,
3 to read as follows:

161.264. 1. Subject to appropriation, the department
2 of elementary and secondary education shall establish a
3 statewide program to be known as the "STEM Career Awareness
4 Activity Program" to increase STEM career awareness among
5 students in grades nine through twelve. For the purposes of
6 this section, "STEM" means science, technology, engineering,
7 and mathematics.

8 2. The department of elementary and secondary
9 education shall promote the statewide program beginning in
10 the 2025-26 school year. The program shall introduce
11 students in grades nine through twelve to a wide variety of
12 STEM careers and technology through an activity program that
13 involves participating in STEM-related activities at state,
14 national, or international competitions.

15 3. By January 1, 2025, the department of elementary
16 and secondary education shall solicit proposals to provide
17 the activity program. By March 1, 2025, the department of

18 elementary and secondary education shall select a provider
19 for the program.

20 (1) The department shall select a provider that
21 presents quantitative or qualitative data demonstrating the
22 effectiveness of the program in any of the following areas:

23 (a) Helping teachers improve their instruction in STEM-
24 related subjects;

25 (b) Increasing the likelihood that students will go on
26 to study a STEM-related subject at a four-year college upon
27 graduation from high school; or

28 (c) Increasing the likelihood that students will enter
29 the STEM workforce upon graduation from high school or
30 college.

31 (2) The department shall select a provider that
32 delivers a program that meets the following criteria:

33 (a) Provides an activity program that is led by
34 teachers who are fully certified to teach in STEM-related
35 subjects in grades nine through twelve under the laws
36 governing the certification of teachers in Missouri; and

37 (b) Facilitates a cohort of students in grades nine
38 through twelve to participate in STEM-related activities at
39 state, national, or international competitions.

40 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 2 and
41 3 of this section to the contrary, the department of
42 elementary and secondary education may choose a third-party
43 nonprofit entity to implement the statewide program, solicit
44 proposals, and select a provider as described under
45 subsection 3 of this section.

46 5. There is hereby created in the state treasury the
47 "STEM Career Awareness Activity Fund". The fund shall
48 consist of any appropriations, gifts, bequests, or public or
49 private donations to such fund. The state treasurer shall

50 be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections
51 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve
52 disbursements of public moneys in accordance with
53 distribution requirements and procedures developed by the
54 department of elementary and secondary education. The fund
55 shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in
56 the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this
57 section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
58 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end
59 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
60 general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest
61 moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
62 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such
63 investments shall be credited to the fund.

64 6. The department of elementary and secondary
65 education may promulgate all necessary rules and regulations
66 for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion
67 of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that
68 is created under the authority delegated in this section
69 shall become effective only if it complies with and is
70 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if
71 applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536
72 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the
73 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay
74 the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
75 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
76 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after
77 August 28, 2024, shall be invalid and void.

161.265. 1. For purposes of this section, the
2 following terms mean:

3 (1) "Department", the department of elementary and
4 secondary education;

5 (2) "Social media", a form of interactive electronic
6 communication through a website or application by which a
7 user creates a user profile to connect with other users of
8 the website or application for the purpose of communicating
9 and sharing information, ideas, news, stories, opinions,
10 images, videos, or other content.

11 2. The department shall prepare and offer a model
12 curriculum, including instructional materials, for
13 instruction on social media safety for students in grades
14 six through twelve. Such instructional materials shall
15 include, but not be limited to, the topics listed in
16 subsection 4 of this section. Such instructional materials
17 shall be published on the department's and each school
18 district's websites. Each school district shall notify the
19 parents or guardians of students enrolled in the district
20 that such instructional materials are available on the
21 department's and school district's websites.

22 3. The department shall periodically update its model
23 social media safety curriculum and instructional materials
24 to reflect changes in social media use, emergent
25 technologies, and new threats to teens using social media
26 platforms.

27 4. Each school district shall offer instruction on
28 social media and internet safety to students in grades six
29 through twelve. Parents or legal guardians shall be given
30 the ability to opt their child out of such instruction. The
31 instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the
32 following topics:

33 (1) Time management and healthy behaviors on social
34 media;

35 (2) The negative effects of social media on mental
36 health, including addiction;

37 (3) The distribution of information on social media;

38 (4) How social media manipulates behavior;

39 (5) The permanency of sharing materials online;

40 (6) How to maintain personal security and identify
41 cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human trafficking on
42 the internet;

43 (7) How to report suspicious behavior encountered on
44 the internet to appropriate authorities;

45 (8) How to safely use social media, including, but not
46 limited to, maintaining personal security, preventing
47 oversharing of personal information, identifying predatory
48 behavior, and reporting suspicious behavior.

49 5. The instruction described in subsection 4 of this
50 section may include the benefits of social media use. Such
51 benefits may include only career and resume building for
52 future academic or employment opportunities, sharing
53 information with familiar family and friends, and safely
54 connecting with other users with like interests.

55 6. A school district shall prohibit student access to
56 social media platforms through the use of internet access
57 provided by the school district, except when access to
58 social media is expressly directed by a teacher solely for
59 educational purposes.

60 7. A school district shall provide and adopt an
61 internet safety policy for student access to the internet
62 provided by the school district. Such policy shall:

63 (1) Limit students' internet access to age-appropriate
64 subject matter and materials only;

65 (2) Protect the safety and security of students when
66 using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct
67 electronic communications;

68 (3) Prohibit students from accessing data or
69 information relating to unlawful online activities, such as
70 hacking or fraud; and

71 (4) Prohibit students from accessing any website, web
72 application, or software that does not protect against the
73 disclosure, use, or dissemination of students' personal
74 information.

75 8. The department shall promulgate rules to implement
76 the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a
77 rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
78 created under the authority delegated in this section shall
79 become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
80 all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,
81 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
82 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the
83 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay
84 the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
85 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
86 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after
87 August 28, 2024, shall be invalid and void.

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