

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 433 (HB 445)

2026 Regular Session

Freiberg

Existing law (R.S. 17:4071) creates the LaSTEM Advisory Council to coordinate and oversee the creation, delivery, and promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs, to increase student interest and achievement in STEM fields, to ensure the alignment of education, economic development, industry, and workforce needs, and to increase the number of women who graduate from a postsecondary institution with a STEM degree or credential.

Prior law created the council under the auspices of the Board of Regents and placed the council within the Dept. of Education for purposes of executive branch organization. New law provides instead that the council is created under the auspices of La. Works and places the council within that department.

Existing law provides that the council consists of the following members:

- (1) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.
- (2) The secretary of La. Economic Development, or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of La. Works, or his designee.
- (4) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.
- (5) The president of the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, or his designee.
- (6) The president of the La. State University System, or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.
- (8) The president of the University of La. System, or his designee.
- (9) The president of the La. Community and Technical College System, or his designee.
- (10) The executive director of the La. School Boards Association, or his designee.
- (11) The executive director of the La. Association of Public Charter Schools, or his designee.
- (12) The president of the La. Science Teachers Association, or his designee.
- (13) The president of the La. Association of Teachers of Mathematics, or his designee.
- (14) The president of the La. Association of Business and Industry, or his designee.
- (15) Three members with demonstrated interest, experience, and expertise in STEM education, appointed by the governor.
- (16) Three members representing key industries in the state, appointed by the secretary of La. Economic Development.
- (17) A member of the La. Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (18) A member of the La. House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House.
- (19) The chairman of the La. Workforce Investment Council, or his designee.
- (20) The president of the La. Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, or his designee.

Prior law additionally provided for the following members:

- (1) The executive director of the La. Association of Principals, or his designee.
- (2) Two members who are on the faculty of a La. postsecondary education institution and who teach in a STEM discipline, appointed by the commissioner of higher education.
- (3) The president of the La. Federation of Teachers, or his designee.
- (4) The president of the La. Association of Educators, or his designee.

New law removes these members.

Prior law provided that the council was chaired by the commissioner of higher education or his designee. Provided that the secretary of La. Economic Development (LED) or his designee was the initial vice chairman and that the vice chairmanship alternated on a triennial basis between certain specified members.

New law instead provides that the council is chaired by the secretary of La. Works and that the secretary of LED or his designee is the vice chairman.

Prior law required the council to meet quarterly. New law instead requires the council to meet twice each year. Additionally provides that members of the council may attend and participate in a meeting via electronic means in accordance with existing law (R.S. 42:17.2).

Existing law requires the council to submit a status report by Jan. 30th of each year regarding all actions taken to implement the provisions of existing law, including metrics that measure the success of implementing council activities and initiatives and any recommendations for legislation or policy changes.

Existing law requires the council to submit a status report to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education. Prior law required submission to be done through the Bd. of Regents. New law requires submission to be done through LA Works. New law additionally requires the report to be submitted to the House and Senate committees on labor and industrial relations.

Existing law creates The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Fund in the state treasury for the purpose of conducting student-focused, project-based, programs and competitions in STEM subjects, including robotics, coding, and design-build test projects, in grades prekindergarten through college level.

Prior law provided that the source of monies deposited into the fund was legislative appropriations. Provided that monies in the fund were subject to appropriation by the legislature and should have been available exclusively for programs and initiatives prescribed by the council.

Prior law authorized the treasurer to establish a separate account within the fund for the deposit of grants and donations received by the council. Provided that if the terms and conditions of the grant or donation or the agreements pertaining thereto required that the monies not be deposited into the treasury, the grant or donation may have nevertheless been deposited into the fund. Provided that monies in this separate account shall not have been subject to legislative appropriation but shall have been used by the council only to further its mission. Required the council to adopt a resolution stating which members or officers were authorized to withdraw money from the fund and the separate account in the fund, which resolution shall have been submitted to the state treasury. Provided that monies in the fund and the separate account shall only have been used by the council to further its mission.

New law removes prior law. Provides that after allocation of money to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as provided in existing constitution (Art. VII, §9(B)), the treasurer shall deposit into the fund any monies transferred or appropriated by the legislature. Requires the treasurer to also deposit into the fund any grants, donations, gifts, or other monies which may become available.

Existing law provides that all unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Provides that such monies shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and interest earned on the investment of these monies shall be credited to the fund, after compliance with the requirements of existing constitution (Art. VII, §9(B)) relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:4071(A), (B)(intro. para.), (E), (F), (H)(1), (2), (5), (6), (7), and (10), and (J) and 4072; Adds R.S. 36:309(E)(3); Repeals R.S. 17:4071(B)(11), (15), (23), and (24) and R.S. 36:651(K)(6))