

2017 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 225

BY SENATOR HEWITT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA. Provides relative to STEM education. (gov sig)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17

AN ACT

To enact Chapter 45 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:4071 through 4073, and R.S. 36:651(T)(6), relative to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education; to create the Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory Council and provide for its membership, powers, duties, and functions; to create and provide with respect to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Fund; to provide for a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics high school diploma endorsement; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 45 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:4071 through 4073, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§4071. Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory Council; creation; membership; powers, duties, and functions**

**A. The Louisiana Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Technology Advisory Council is hereby created to coordinate and oversee the creation,**

1 delivery, and promotion of STEM education programs, to increase student  
2 interest and achievement in the fields of science, engineering, technology, and  
3 mathematics, and to ensure the alignment of education, economic development,  
4 industry, and workforce needs.

5 B. The council shall consist of twenty-five members as follows:

6 (1) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.

7 (2) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his  
8 designee.

9 (3) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or  
10 his designee.

11 (4) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.

12 (5) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
13 Education, or his designee.

14 (6) The president of the Louisiana State University System, or his  
15 designee.

16 (7) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.

17 (8) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.

18 (9) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College  
19 System, or his designee.

20 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association,  
21 or his designee.

22 (11) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Principals,  
23 or his designee.

24 (12) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public  
25 Charter Schools, or his designee.

26 (13) The president of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association, or his  
27 designee.

28 (14) The president of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of  
29 Mathematics, or his designee.

1                   **(15) Two members who are on the faculty of a Louisiana postsecondary**  
2                   **education institution and who teach in a STEM discipline.**

3                   **(16) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and**  
4                   **Industry, or his designee.**

5                   **(17) Three members with demonstrated interest, experience, and**  
6                   **expertise in STEM education, appointed by the governor.**

7                   **(18) Three members representing key industries in the state, appointed**  
8                   **by the secretary of the Department of Economic Development.**

9                   **(19) A member of the Louisiana Senate, appointed by the president of**  
10                   **the Senate.**

11                   **(20) A member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, appointed by**  
12                   **the speaker of the House.**

13                   **C. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of appointment.**

14                   **D. Members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of**  
15                   **expenses, other than what may be afforded by their appointing authority.**

16                   **E. The council shall be chaired by the commissioner of higher education**  
17                   **or his designee. The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or**  
18                   **his designee, shall serve as the initial vice chairman of the council. Thereafter,**  
19                   **the vice chairmanship shall alternate on a biennial basis between the secretary**  
20                   **of the Department of Economic Development, or his designee, and the executive**  
21                   **director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his designee. The council**  
22                   **may elect such other officers as it deems necessary.**

23                   **F. The council shall meet monthly and at such other times as called by**  
24                   **the chairman.**

25                   **G. A quorum of the total membership is required to do business and all**  
26                   **actions taken by the council shall require the affirmative vote of the majority**  
27                   **of the members present and voting.**

28                   **H. As funding allows, the council shall:**

29                   **(1) Create a comprehensive, statewide STEM plan that contains clear**

1 objectives to guide the development of STEM education and STEM career  
2 opportunities and aligns elementary, secondary, and postsecondary STEM  
3 curricula, programs, initiatives, and activities.

4 (2) Coordinate all state STEM-related programs and activities.

5 (3) Promote activities that raise awareness of STEM education and  
6 STEM career opportunities.

7 (4) Engage business and industry, employers, professional and  
8 community-based organizations, and other stakeholders in STEM education  
9 and career and talent programs and activities.

10 (5) Encourage industry and business entities to provide funding,  
11 resources, and technical assistance to elementary, secondary, and postsecondary  
12 schools to promote interest in STEM discipline courses and career  
13 opportunities.

14 (6) Connect STEM resources, initiatives, and programs regionally and  
15 throughout the state.

16 (7) Establish an information clearinghouse, to be housed at the Board  
17 of Regents, to identify and provide best practice resources for both the  
18 secondary and postsecondary educational systems and to review and acquire  
19 STEM education related instructional materials.

20 (8) Provide support for high quality professional development for  
21 teachers of STEM subjects.

22 (9) As appropriate, join and participate in a national STEM network  
23 and collaborate with other states in STEM program development.

24 (10) Establish a competitive grants program to fund robotics  
25 competitions to provide students in grades seven through twelve with  
26 opportunities to improve science, engineering, technology, and mathematics  
27 skills by participating in events sponsored by a science and technology  
28 development program known as FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of  
29 Science and Technology) Robotics. The program may be funded through the

1        Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Technology Education Fund and any  
2        other available public or private funds.

3                I. The council may:

4                (1) Establish such subcommittees and workgroups as the council deems  
5                necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

6                (2) Solicit funds, contributions, and grants from any allowable source  
7                to implement the provisions of this Section and to further STEM education in  
8                the state.

9                (3) Seek the expertise and services of individuals and entities outside its  
10               membership for research, advice, and other needs as required to carry out the  
11               council's mission.

12               J. The council, through the Board of Regents, shall submit a status  
13               report regarding all actions taken to implement the provisions of this Section,  
14               including any recommendations for legislation or policy changes, to the Senate  
15               Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education by January  
16               thirtieth of each year.

17        §4072. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Fund

18               A. The Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Technology (STEM)  
19               Education Fund is hereby created in the state treasury for the purpose of  
20               conducting student-focused, project-based, programs and competitions in  
21               science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects, including robotics,  
22               coding, and design-build test projects, in grades prekindergarten through  
23               college level.

24               B.(1) The source of monies deposited into the fund shall be legislative  
25               appropriations. Monies in the fund shall be subject to appropriation by the  
26               legislature and shall be available exclusively for programs and initiatives  
27               prescribed by the Louisiana Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and  
28               Technology Advisory Council.

29               (2) The treasurer is hereby authorized to establish a separate account

1 within the fund for the deposit of grants and donations received by the  
2 Louisiana Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Technology Advisory  
3 Council. Monies in this separate account shall not be subject to legislative  
4 appropriation but shall be used by the council only to further their mission.

5 C. All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of  
6 the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Such monies shall be invested by the  
7 state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and  
8 interest earned on the investment of these monies shall be credited to the fund,  
9 after compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the  
10 Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

11 §4073. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; diploma  
12 endorsement program

13 A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in  
14 consultation with the Louisiana Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and  
15 Technology Advisory Council, shall establish an Engineering, Mathematics, and  
16 Technology (STEM) diploma endorsement to recognize a high school student  
17 who exhibits superior academic achievement in STEM discipline subjects.

18 B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall  
19 establish the minimum course, proficiency, and other requirements the board  
20 deems necessary and appropriate for a student to earn the STEM diploma  
21 endorsement.

22 C. The state Department of Education and each public school governing  
23 authority shall provide information regarding the requirements for STEM  
24 diploma endorsement to all students enrolled in grades six through twelve and  
25 their parents.

26 D. The governing authority of each public high school shall maintain the  
27 records needed to identify students who have earned the STEM diploma  
28 endorsement and shall note such on the transcript of each student who earns the  
29 endorsement.

1                   **E. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt**  
2                   **rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the**  
3                   **provisions of this Section.**

4                   Section 2. R.S. 36:651(T)(6) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

5                   §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of  
6   Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of  
7   Education

8   \*       \*       \*

9                   T. The following agencies are placed within the Department of Education and  
10                   shall perform and exercise their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as  
11                   provided by law:

12   \*       \*       \*

13                   **(6) The Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**  
14                   **Advisory Council (R.S. 17:4071).**

15   \*       \*       \*

16                   Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
17                   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
18                   by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
19                   vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
20                   effective on the day following such approval.

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

---

SB 225 Original   DIGEST   Hewitt  
   2017 Regular Session

Proposed law provides with respect to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
education as follows:

- (1)   Creates the Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory  
      Council and provides for its membership, powers, duties, and function.
- (2)   Creates the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Fund in  
      the state treasury.
- (3)   Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to create a science,  
      technology, engineering, and mathematics high school diploma endorsement.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:4071-4073 and R.S. 36:651(T)(6))