

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 392 (SB 225)

2017 Regular Session

Hewitt

New law creates the Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory Council (LaSTEM) under the auspices of the Board of Regents to coordinate and oversee the creation, delivery, and promotion of STEM education programs, to increase student interest and achievement in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, 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.

Provides that the council shall be composed of the following 29 members:

- (1) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.
- (2) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his designee.
- (3) The executive director of the La. Workforce Commission, or his designee.
- (4) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.
- (5) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, or his designee.
- (6) The president of the Louisiana State University System, or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.
- (8) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.
- (9) The president of the Louisiana 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 Principals, or his designee.
- (12) The executive director of the La. Association of Public Charter Schools, or his designee.
- (13) The president of the La. Science Teachers Association, or his designee.
- (14) The president of the La. Association of Teachers of Mathematics, or his designee.
- (15) Two members who are on the faculty of a Louisiana postsecondary education institution who teach in a STEM discipline, appointed by the commissioner of higher education.
- (16) The president of the La. Association of Business and Industry, or his designee.
- (17) Three members with demonstrated interest, experience, and expertise in STEM education, appointed by the governor.
- (18) Three members representing key industries in the state, appointed by the secretary of the Department of Economic Development.
- (19) A member of the La. Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (20) A member of the La. House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House.
- (21) The chairman of the La. Workforce Investment Council, or his designee.
- (22) The president of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, or his designee.

(23) The president of the La. Federation of Teachers, or his designee.

(24) The president of the La. Association of Educators, or his designee.

Provides that members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement, other than what may be afforded by the appointing authority. Further provides that legislative members shall receive the same per diem and reimbursement of travel expenses as provided by their respective houses for legislative committee meetings.

Provides that the commissioner of higher education shall chair the council and the vice-chairmanship shall alternate between the state superintendent of education, the secretary of the Department of Economic Development, and the executive director of the La. Workforce Commission.

Provides that the council shall meet at least once a month until 8/31/18, thereafter, the council shall be required to meet only quarterly. Further provides that a majority of the membership constitutes a quorum and a majority vote of those present and voting is required for all council actions. Additionally provides that the first meeting of the council shall be no later than Sept. 15, 2017.

Provides that the council shall, as funding allows:

- (1) Create a comprehensive, statewide STEM plan.
- (2) Coordinate all state STEM education-related programs and activities.
- (3) Create a new STEM culture and promote activities that raise awareness of STEM education and STEM career opportunities.
- (4) Integrate employers and educators.
- (5) Encourage business and industry to provide funding, resources, and technical assistance to schools to promote interest in STEM discipline courses and career opportunities.
- (6) Connect STEM education resources, initiatives, and programs.
- (7) Establish an information clearinghouse of information regarding best practice resources and STEM education-related instructional materials.
- (8) Provide support for high quality professional development for STEM teachers.
- (9) As appropriate, join and participate in a national STEM network and collaborate with other states in STEM education program development.
- (10) Establish a competitive grants program to fund robotics competitions for students, including events sponsored by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics.

Requires the council, through the Board of Regents, to submit a status report regarding implementation of new law to the Senate and House committees on education by January 30 of each year. Specifies that the report shall include metrics to measure success of implementation of new law.

New law creates the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fund (Fund) in the state treasury and provides that monies in the fund shall be appropriated by the legislature and shall be available exclusively for programs and initiatives prescribed by LaSTEM. Authorizes the state treasurer to establish a separate account within the fund for the deposit of grants and donations received by LaSTEM. If the terms and conditions of the grant or donation or the agreements pertaining thereto require that the monies not be deposited into the treasury, the grant or donation may nevertheless be deposited into the fund. Monies in this separate account shall not be subject to legislative appropriation, but shall be used by the council only to further their mission.

Requires the council to adopt a resolution stating which members or officers are authorized to withdraw money from the fund and the separate account in the fund.

Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to create a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics high school diploma endorsement and establish the requirements for earning the endorsement. Further requires public school governing authorities to identify students who earn the STEM diploma endorsement and note such on the student's transcript.

Provides that nothing in new law shall be construed in a manner as to supersede the constitutionally and statutorily prescribed powers, duties, and responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board of Regents, or a postsecondary education management board.

Effective upon signature of the governor (June 23, 2017).

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