

HB 1972 -- STEM CAREER AWARENESS ACTIVITY PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Riley

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Program" for grades 9-12. Beginning in the 2025-26 school year DESE may solicit proposals to provide the Program and by March 1, 2025, shall select a provider. The bill outlines requirements for providers who must present data demonstrating effectiveness in the following areas: teacher instruction on STEM-related subjects; increased student enrollment in four year STEM related fields; or increased participation in STEM related workforce upon graduation.

The bill outlines criteria for program providers, authorizes DESE to choose a third party nonprofit entity to implement the Program, solicit proposals, and select a provider.

This bill also creates the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Fund".

This bill is the same as HB 887 (2023).