

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 976

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 two new sections, to be known as sections 161.264 and 161.265, to read as follows:

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

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

3. By January 1, 2025, the department of elementary and secondary education shall solicit proposals to provide the activity program. By March 1, 2025, the department of elementary and secondary education shall select a provider for the program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Fund". The fund shall consist of any appropriations, gifts, bequests, or public or private donations to such fund. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements of public moneys in accordance with

distribution requirements and procedures developed by the department of elementary and secondary education. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

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

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

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

(2) "Social media", a form of interactive electronic communication through a website or application by which a user creates a user profile to connect with other users of the website or application for the purpose of communicating

and sharing information, ideas, news, stories, opinions, images, videos, or other content.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) The distribution of information on social media;

(4) How social media manipulates behavior;

(5) The permanency of sharing materials online;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) Prohibit students from accessing any website, web application, or software that does not protect against the

disclosure, use, or dissemination of students' personal information.

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