

SB-54

To fund equitable learning opportunities in STEM education for students attending Title I high schools.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Jung of California introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To fund equitable learning opportunities in STEM education for students attending Title I high schools.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Concentrated STEM Education Act."

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this bill:

The term "high school" has the meaning given in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, that--

grants a diploma, as defined by the State; and

includes, at least, grade 12.

The term "State" has the meaning given in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, that--

The term "State" means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and each of the outlying areas.

The term "STEM" encompasses the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

SECTION 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that:

In school year (SY) 2015-2016, 4,940,000 children in grades 9-12 attended a school eligible for Title I funding, according to the Department of Education.

Students who come from a low socioeconomic status background, students of color, and women are the least represented in STEM.

Without previous exposure to STEM, students are unlikely to pursue scholarship and employment in these disciplines.

Occupations in the STEM fields will increase by 8 percent from 2019 to 2029, with the median annual wage of an employee in the STEM fields being \$89,780 in 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

SECTION 4. FUNDING ELIGIBILITY.

Funds authorized in this Act shall be distributed in the form of schoolwide basic grants for Title I high schools that shall provide for any of the following:

Development and instruction of STEM curricula;

Purchase of textbooks and databases containing STEM information;

Purchase of laboratory equipment and supplies to facilitate hands-on learning in the STEM

classroom;

Opportunities for students to interface with local STEM nonprofit organizations, laboratories, and museums to facilitate experiential learning;

Funding of afterschool STEM clubs, programs, competitions, and scholarships wherein students compete.

SECTION 5. EXECUTION AND ENFORCEMENT.

The Act entails that:

There are hereby appropriated \$750,000,000 to the Department of Education to fund the program for each of fiscal years 2022 to 2024;

Effectiveness of the Act shall be determined by measuring trends within participating schools in mathematics proficiency rates and a student exit survey inquiring students' intended area of study in college, if attending;

Mathematics proficiency rates of participating schools shall be reported by the Department of Education to Congress by September 30, 2021, to establish a baseline for subsequent years;

The Secretary of Education shall oversee the responsible distribution of the aforementioned funds, and

Report the outcomes of the Act to Congress each year after its implementation.

SECTION 6. TERMINATION.

Subsequent funding approved by the Act shall be terminated if the Secretary finds that mathematics proficiency rates in participating schools fell following implementation, and/or fewer students intend to study STEM disciplines following implementation.