

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 787

Introduced by Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 18, 2023

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the STEEM Development

2 Act.

3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the STEEM Development Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

4 (1) Creating, expanding, and upskilling Nebraska's workforce is
5 essential for (a) retaining and expanding businesses in and attracting
6 businesses to Nebraska, (b) boosting innovation and productivity across
7 Nebraska business sectors, and (c) attracting and retaining investment
8 capital in Nebraska;

9 (2) Education is a critical component of workforce development;

10 (3) Successfully engaging students in coursework and careers in
11 science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship, and mathematics areas
12 at the middle school and high school levels has been shown to increase
13 participation in educational training and degree programs and the pursuit
14 of careers in science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship, and
15 mathematics fields; and

16 (4) It is the policy of this state to support educational tools that
17 increase student learning and interest in science, technology,
18 engineering, entrepreneurship, and mathematics.

19 Sec. 3. For purposes of the STEEM Development Act:

20 (1) Department means the State Department of Education;

21 (2) Developer means a developer of a learning platform; and

22 (3) Learning platform means a three-dimensional game-based learning
23 platform for middle school and high school students.

24 Sec. 4. Any developer may apply to the department for a grant under
25 the STEEM Development Act to develop and provide a learning platform
26 that:

27 (1) Is designed to teach information related to chemistry and
28 physical science or business;

29 (2) Aligns with chemistry and physical science or business standards
30 established by the State Board of Education;

31 (3) Connects such standards with real-world technologies and

1 applications; and

2 (4) Highlights science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship,
3 and mathematics career pathways in Nebraska.

4 Sec. 5. Any developer that receives a grant under the STEEM
5 Development Act shall provide access to and use of its learning platform
6 to all Nebraska school districts.

7 Sec. 6. The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
8 regulations to carry out the STEEM Development Act.

9 Sec. 7. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate five
10 million dollars from the General Fund each fiscal year to the department
11 to carry out the STEEM Development Act.