

HB 2671 -- STEM CAREER AWARENESS

SPONSOR: Fitzwater (49)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill establishes a pilot program to be known as the STEM Career Awareness Pilot Program to increase awareness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall select twenty-five secondary schools for participation in the program which will introduce students to a wide variety of STEM careers and technology through an on-line-based STEM curriculum. The bill sets out the specific criteria for the on-line program. The pilot program will run from 2017 through 2022.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that exposing students to math and science fields at an early age leads to a more robust job market, benefiting both the students themselves and their future employers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fitzwater; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Gifted Association Of Missouri; and The Boeing Company.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.