

HB 248 -- STEM CAREER AWARENESS

SPONSOR: Fitzwater (49)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 0 with 1 present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Economic Development to establish a statewide, online program for middle schools designed to promote careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this is critical right now in our economies across the country. The reason kids are not going into STEM careers is not because they aren't good at math etc, but because they don't know what the careers are. This will expose students to those careers. It's important to show students their work has a societal impact. Students, especially in smaller schools, don't always get such information or experience.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fitzwater; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Gifted Association of Missouri; Missouri Education Reform Council; The Boeing Company; and Shelia C. Boyington, Thinking Media.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

This bill is similar to HB 2671 (2016).