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HOUSE BILL NO. 615
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the House Committee on Education
on _____)
(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Price)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-364, 22.1-365 and 22.1-367 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board; purpose and duties; historically underrepresented students.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 22.1-364, 22.1-365 and 22.1-367 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-364. The Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board; purpose.

A. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Board" means the Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Advisory Board.

"Historically underrepresented students" includes elementary and secondary students in the Commonwealth who are racial or ethnic minorities, students who identify as LGBTQ+, students who are female, and students who are disabled.

"Historically underrepresented groups" means certain minority demographics that have historically faced discrimination and other systemic and social obstacles that have limited their representation in and opportunities for education and academic success, including racial and ethnic minorities, individuals who identify as LGBTQ+, women, and individuals who are disabled.

"LGBTQ+" includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and additional sexual orientations and gender identities.

"STEM" means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

26 B. The Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Advisory
27 Board (the Board) is established as an advisory board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive
28 branch of state government. The purpose of the Board is to advise the Governor, Cabinet members, and
29 the General Assembly on strategies to align STEM education efforts ~~and~~, report STEM education
30 challenges, goals, and successes across the Commonwealth, and promote the participation of historically
31 underrepresented students in STEM education.

32 **§ 22.1-365. Membership; terms; quorum; meetings.**

33 A. The Board shall have a total membership of ~~16~~ 23 members that shall consist of ~~10~~ 17
34 nonlegislative citizen members and six ex officio members. ~~Nonlegislative~~ Ten of the nonlegislative
35 citizen members to shall be appointed by the Governor and shall represent or have STEM experience with
36 the public and private sector, industry partners, environmental organizations, and both formal and informal
37 STEM educational organizations. Seven of the nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed by the
38 chairmen of the Virginia African American Advisory Board, Virginia-Asian Advisory Board, Latino
39 Advisory Board, Council on Women, Virginia LGBTQ+ Advisory Board, Office of New Americans
40 Advisory Board, and Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. Each chairman of such advisory boards
41 shall appoint one nonlegislative citizen member representing the population served by his advisory board
42 subject to the approval of a majority of the members of his advisory board. The Director of the Science
43 Museum of Virginia, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Director of the State Council of
44 Higher Education for Virginia, or their designees, shall serve ex officio with full voting privileges. The
45 Secretary of Education; the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Commonwealth; and the
46 ~~Chief Director of Workforce Development~~ Officer and Advancement for the Commonwealth, or their
47 designees, shall serve ex officio without voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Board
48 shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.

49 B. Ex officio members of the Board shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.
50 Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms.
51 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. All members may be
52 reappointed. After the initial staggering of terms, nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a

53 term of four years. No nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year
54 terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a
55 term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment.

56 C. The Board shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership. A majority
57 of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Board shall be held at the call of the
58 chairman or whenever the majority of the members so request.

59 **§ 22.1-367. Powers and duties of the Board; acceptance of gifts and grants; report.**

60 A. ~~The Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board~~ shall have the following powers and duties:

61 1. Create a unified vision regarding STEM education initiatives, language, and measures of success
62 to promote a culture of collaboration for STEM programming in the Commonwealth.

63 2. Develop the infrastructure for creating STEM Regional Hubs and naming STEM Champions in
64 communities across the Commonwealth to facilitate partnerships between organizations across regions
65 and populations that will lead to increased cross-sector opportunities.

66 3. Advance and disseminate STEM curricular and professional development resources for formal
67 and informal education.

68 4. Identify strategies to promote the participation of historically underrepresented students in
69 STEM education. Such strategies shall include (i) identifying barriers to STEM participation for
70 historically underrepresented students in elementary and secondary schools; (ii) developing
71 recommendations for elective courses in secondary schools that expand hands-on STEM opportunities for
72 all secondary school students; (iii) developing recommendations for elective courses in secondary schools
73 that expand and promote hands-on STEM opportunities and STEM participation for historically
74 underrepresented students; (iv) recommending changes to the Standards of Learning that promote the
75 STEM-related contributions of historically underrepresented groups; and (v) collaborating with
76 institutions of higher education and the private sector in the Commonwealth to educate students on and
77 expand STEM pathways and opportunities in higher education, STEM careers, STEM internships, STEM
78 fellowships, and other STEM enrichment programs.

