

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5391

To establish a National STEM Week to promote American innovation and enhance STEM education pathways for all students, including those in rural, urban, and underserved communities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish a National STEM Week to promote American innovation and enhance STEM education pathways for all students, including those in rural, urban, and underserved communities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National STEM Week
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Science, technology, engineering, and math-
2 ematics (STEM) fields are crucial to the economic
3 competitiveness and innovative capacity of the
4 United States.

5 (2) There exists a need to enhance access to
6 quality STEM education across all demographics
7 and regions to address disparities in STEM partici-
8 pation and to ensure a diverse and capable future
9 workforce.

10 (3) Informal and formal learning environments,
11 including afterschool programs and at-home activi-
12 ties, play significant roles in stimulating interest and
13 proficiency in STEM subjects.

14 (4) Collaborations between educational institu-
15 tions, industry partners, and communities can effec-
16 tively inspire and prepare students for careers in
17 STEM.

18 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL STEM WEEK.**

19 The National Science and Technology Council Com-
20 mittee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathe-
21 matics Education (CoSTEM), in consultation with other
22 relevant stakeholders, shall designate a week each cal-
23 endar year as “National STEM Week”.

1 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES OF NATIONAL STEM WEEK.**

2 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of National STEM
3 Week are, through the programs and activities described
4 subsection (b), to—

5 (1) highlight the importance of STEM edu-
6 cation in educational institutions across the country;

7 (2) showcase diverse career pathways within
8 STEM fields in both classroom settings and informal
9 learning environments;

10 (3) encourage family engagement with STEM
11 activities at home to foster a conducive learning en-
12 vironment;

13 (4) facilitate partnerships between educational
14 institutions and industry leaders to provide students
15 with real-world applications and mentorship opportu-
16 nities in STEM fields; and

17 (5) support States and local communities in de-
18 veloping and promoting their own STEM Week ac-
19 tivities and resources, tailored to their unique edu-
20 cational and industrial landscapes.

21 (b) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—During National
22 STEM Week, the National Science and Technology Coun-
23 cil Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and
24 Mathematics Education (CoSTEM) shall carry out the fol-
25 lowing:

1 (1) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Encourage
2 educational institutions to participate in National
3 STEM Week.

4 (2) COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.—
5 Encourage families of students attending the edu-
6 cational institutions participating in National STEM
7 Week to participate in STEM activities.

8 (3) INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT.—Encourage
9 STEM industries to—

10 (A) engage with students enrolled in edu-
11 cational institutions by providing mentorship
12 programs, site visits, and guest lectures; and

13 (B) support STEM education initiatives at
14 such educational institutions through funding,
15 resources, and expertise.

16 **SEC. 5. REPORTING AND EVALUATION.**

17 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, and on an annual basis thereafter, the Na-
19 tional Science and Technology Council Committee on
20 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
21 (CoSTEM) shall submit to Congress a report detailing the
22 activities conducted under National STEM Week, includ-
23 ing—

24 (1) a summary of nationwide participation and
25 activities;

1 (2) an analysis of the impact of these activities
2 on improving STEM education and closing edu-
3 cational gaps; and

4 (3) recommendations for improving future
5 STEM Weeks based on feedback from participants
6 and stakeholders.

7 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.**—The term
10 “educational institution” means any elementary
11 school, secondary school, and institution of higher
12 education.

13 (2) **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY**
14 **SCHOOL.**—The terms “elementary school” and “sec-
15 ondary school” have the meanings given the terms
16 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

18 (3) **INDUSTRY LEADER.**—The term “industry
19 leader” means an individual in a leadership position
20 within an industry partner who has the authority to
21 make strategic decisions and allocate resources to
22 support the purposes of National STEM Week.

23 (4) **INDUSTRY PARTNER.**—The term “industry
24 partner” means a for-profit or nonprofit entity seek-

1 ing to support the purposes of National STEM
2 Week.

3 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
4 term “institution of higher education” has the
5 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

7 (6) STEM.—The term “STEM” means science,
8 technology, engineering, and mathematics.

9 (7) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
10 the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
11 the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa,
12 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
13 lands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

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