

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1020

To define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 20, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. COLLINS of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

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 “STEM Education Act
5 of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF STEM EDUCATION.**

7 For purposes of carrying out STEM education activi-
8 ties at the National Science Foundation, the Department
9 of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-

1 tration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
2 tration, the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
3 nology, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the
4 term “STEM education” means education in the subjects
5 of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, in-
6 cluding computer science.

7 **SEC. 3. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.**

8 (a) GRANTS.—The Director of the National Science
9 Foundation, through the Directorate for Education and
10 Human Resources, shall continue to award competitive,
11 merit-reviewed grants to support—

12 (1) research and development of innovative out-
13 of-school STEM learning and emerging STEM
14 learning environments in order to improve STEM
15 learning outcomes and engagement in STEM; and

16 (2) research that advances the field of informal
17 STEM education.

18 (b) USES OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants
19 under this section may encompass a single STEM dis-
20 cipline, multiple STEM disciplines, or integrative STEM
21 initiatives and shall include—

22 (1) research and development that improves our
23 understanding of learning and engagement in infor-
24 mal environments, including the role of informal en-

1 vironments in broadening participation in STEM;
 2 and

3 (2) design and testing of innovative STEM
 4 learning models, programs, and other resources for
 5 informal learning environments to improve STEM
 6 learning outcomes and increase engagement for K–
 7 12 students, K–12 teachers, and the general public,
 8 including design and testing of the scalability of
 9 models, programs, and other resources.

10 **SEC. 4. NOYCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**

11 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 10A of the National
 12 Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C.
 13 1862n–1a) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by inserting “or
 15 bachelor’s” after “master’s”;

16 (2) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
 18 graph (2)(B);

19 (B) in paragraph (3)—

20 (i) by inserting “for teachers with
 21 master’s degrees in their field” after
 22 “Teaching Fellowships”; and

23 (ii) by striking the period at the end
 24 of subparagraph (B) and inserting “;
 25 and”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(4) in the case of National Science Foundation
4 Master Teaching Fellowships for teachers with bach-
5 elor’s degrees in their field and working toward a
6 master’s degree—

7 “(A) offering academic courses leading to
8 a master’s degree and leadership training to
9 prepare individuals to become master teachers
10 in elementary and secondary schools; and

11 “(B) offering programs both during and
12 after matriculation in the program for which
13 the fellowship is received to enable fellows to
14 become highly effective mathematics and
15 science teachers, including mentoring, training,
16 induction, and professional development activi-
17 ties, to fulfill the service requirements of this
18 section, including the requirements of sub-
19 section (e), and to exchange ideas with others
20 in their fields.”;

21 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection
22 (g)” and inserting “subsection (h)”;

23 (4) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)
24 as subsections (h) through (j), respectively; and

1 (5) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
2 lowing new subsection:

3 “(g) SUPPORT FOR MASTER TEACHING FELLOWS
4 WHILE ENROLLED IN A MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM.—
5 A National Science Foundation Master Teacher Fellow
6 may receive a maximum of 1 year of fellowship support
7 while enrolled in a master’s degree program as described
8 in subsection (c)(4)(A), except that if such fellow is en-
9 rolled in a part-time program, such amount shall be pro-
10 rated according to the length of the program.”.

11 (b) DEFINITION.—Section 10(i)(5) of the National
12 Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C.
13 1862n–1(i)(5)) is amended by inserting “computer
14 science,” after “means a science,”.

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