

Calendar No. 195

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 1020****[Report No. 114–115]**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AUGUST 4, 2015

Reported by Mr. THUNE, without amendment

AN ACT

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”.

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

2 For purposes of carrying out STEM education activi-
3 ties at the National Science Foundation, the Department
4 of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
5 tration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
6 tration, the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
7 nology, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the
8 term “STEM education” means education in the subjects
9 of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, in-
10 cluding computer science.

11 **SEC. 3. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.**

12 (a) GRANTS.—The Director of the National Science
13 Foundation, through the Directorate for Education and
14 Human Resources, shall continue to award competitive,
15 merit-reviewed grants to support—

16 (1) research and development of innovative out-
17 of-school STEM learning and emerging STEM
18 learning environments in order to improve STEM
19 learning outcomes and engagement in STEM; and

20 (2) research that advances the field of informal
21 STEM education.

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

1 (1) research and development that improves our
 2 understanding of learning and engagement in infor-
 3 mal environments, including the role of informal en-
 4 vironments in broadening participation in STEM;
 5 and

6 (2) design and testing of innovative STEM
 7 learning models, programs, and other resources for
 8 informal learning environments to improve STEM
 9 learning outcomes and increase engagement for K–
 10 12 students, K–12 teachers, and the general public,
 11 including design and testing of the scalability of
 12 models, programs, and other resources.

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

14 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 10A of the National
 15 Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C.
 16 1862n–1a) is amended—

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

19 (2) in subsection (c)—

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

22 (B) in paragraph (3)—

23 (i) by inserting “for teachers with
 24 master’s degrees in their field” after
 25 “Teaching Fellowships”; and

1 (ii) by striking the period at the end
2 of subparagraph (B) and inserting “;
3 and”; and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following new
5 paragraph:

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

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

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

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

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

3 (5) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
4 lowing new subsection:

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

13 (b) DEFINITION.—Section 10(i)(5) of the National
14 Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C.
15 1862n–1(i)(5)) is amended by inserting “computer
16 science,” after “means a science,”.

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