

Calendar No. 339

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 1070****[Report No. 119–110]**

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

MARCH 14, 2025

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

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National STEM Week
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Science, technology, engineering, and math-
7 ematics (STEM) fields are crucial to the economic
8 competitiveness and innovative capacity of the
9 United States.

10 (2) There exists a need to enhance access to
11 quality STEM education across all demographics
12 and regions to address disparities in STEM partici-
13 pation and to ensure a diverse and capable future
14 workforce.

15 (3) Informal and formal learning environments,
16 including afterschool programs and at-home activi-
17 ties, play significant roles in stimulating interest and
18 proficiency in STEM subjects.

19 (4) Collaborations between educational institu-
20 tions, industry partners, and communities can effec-
21 tively inspire and prepare students for careers in
22 STEM.

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

24 The National Science and Technology Council Com-
25 mittee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathe-
26 matics Education (CoSTEM), in consultation with other

1 relevant stakeholders, shall designate a week each cal-
 2 endar year as “National STEM Week”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (b) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—During National
 24 STEM Week, the National Science and Technology Coun-
 25 cil Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and

1 Mathematics Education (CoSTEM) shall carry out the fol-
 2 lowing:

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

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

10 (3) ~~INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT.~~—Encourage
 11 STEM industries to—

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

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

18 **SEC. 5. REPORTING AND EVALUATION.**

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

1 (1) a summary of nationwide participation and
2 activities;

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

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

9 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

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

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

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

1 (4) **INDUSTRY PARTNER.**—The term “industry
2 partner” means a for-profit or nonprofit entity seek-
3 ing to support the purposes of National STEM
4 Week.

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

9 (6) **STEM.**—The term “STEM” means science,
10 technology, engineering, and mathematics.

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

16 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

17 *This Act may be cited as the “National STEM Week*
18 *Act”.*

19 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

20 *Congress finds the following:*

21 (1) *Science, technology, engineering, and mathe-*
22 *matics (STEM) fields are crucial to the economic*
23 *competitiveness and innovative capacity of the United*
24 *States.*

1 (2) *There exists a need to enhance access to qual-*
 2 *ity STEM education across all demographics and re-*
 3 *gions to address disparities in STEM participation*
 4 *and to ensure a capable future workforce.*

5 (3) *Informal and formal learning environments,*
 6 *including afterschool programs and at-home activi-*
 7 *ties, play significant roles in stimulating interest and*
 8 *proficiency in STEM subjects.*

9 (4) *Collaborations between educational institu-*
 10 *tions, industry partners, and communities can effec-*
 11 *tively inspire and prepare students for careers in*
 12 *STEM.*

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

14 *Section 101 of the America COMPETES Reauthoriza-*
 15 *tion Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621) is amended—*

16 (1) *in subsection (b)—*

17 (A) *in paragraph (9), by striking “and”*
 18 *after the semicolon;*

19 (B) *in paragraph (10), by striking the pe-*
 20 *riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

21 (C) *by adding at the end the following:*

22 “(11) *in consultation with relevant stakeholders,*
 23 *designate a week each calendar year, until the expira-*
 24 *tion date provided in subsection (e), as ‘National*
 25 *STEM Week’.*”;

1 (2) *in subsection (d)—*

2 (A) *in paragraph (9), by striking “and”*
 3 *after the semicolon;*

4 (B) *in paragraph (10), by striking the pe-*
 5 *riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

6 (C) *by adding at the end the following:*

7 “(11) *a description of the activities conducted*
 8 *under National STEM Week, including—*

9 “(A) *a summary of nationwide participa-*
 10 *tion and activities;*

11 “(B) *an analysis of the impact of these ac-*
 12 *tivities on improving STEM education and clos-*
 13 *ing educational gaps; and*

14 “(C) *recommendations for improving future*
 15 *STEM Weeks based on feedback from partici-*
 16 *pants and stakeholders.”; and*

17 (3) *by adding at the end the following:*

18 “(e) *NATIONAL STEM WEEK.—*

19 “(1) *DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

20 “(A) *EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The*
 21 *term ‘educational institution’ means any elemen-*
 22 *tary school, secondary school, and institution of*
 23 *higher education.*

24 “(B) *ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY*
 25 *SCHOOL.—The terms ‘elementary school’ and*

1 ‘secondary school’ have the meanings given the
 2 terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and
 3 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 4 7801).

5 “(C) *INDUSTRY LEADER*.—The term ‘indus-
 6 try leader’ means an individual in a leadership
 7 position within an industry partner who has the
 8 authority to make strategic decisions and allo-
 9 cate resources to support the purposes of Na-
 10 tional STEM Week.

11 “(D) *INDUSTRY PARTNER*.—The term ‘in-
 12 dustry partner’ means a for-profit or nonprofit
 13 entity seeking to support the purposes of Na-
 14 tional STEM Week.

15 “(E) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-*
 16 *CATION*.—The term ‘institution of higher edu-
 17 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
 18 tion 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 19 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

20 “(F) *STEM*.—The term ‘STEM’ means
 21 science, technology, engineering, and mathe-
 22 matics.

23 “(G) *STATE*.—The term ‘State’ means each
 24 of the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto
 25 Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, American

1 *Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-*
 2 *iana Islands, and the United States Virgin Is-*
 3 *lands.*

4 “(2) *PURPOSES.*—*The purposes of National*
 5 *STEM Week are, through the programs and activities*
 6 *described in paragraph (3), to—*

7 “(A) *highlight the importance of STEM*
 8 *education in educational institutions across the*
 9 *country;*

10 “(B) *showcase diverse career pathways*
 11 *within STEM fields in both classroom settings*
 12 *and informal learning environments;*

13 “(C) *encourage family engagement with*
 14 *STEM activities at home to foster a conducive*
 15 *learning environment;*

16 “(D) *facilitate partnerships between edu-*
 17 *cational institutions and industry leaders to pro-*
 18 *vide students with real-world applications and*
 19 *mentorship opportunities in STEM fields; and*

20 “(E) *support States and local communities*
 21 *in developing and promoting their own STEM*
 22 *Week activities and resources, tailored to their*
 23 *unique educational and industrial landscapes.*

1 “(3) *PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.*—*During Na-*
 2 *tional STEM Week, the committee established under*
 3 *subsection (a) shall carry out the following:*

4 “(A) *EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.*—*Encour-*
 5 *age educational institutions to participate in*
 6 *National STEM Week.*

7 “(B) *COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGE-*
 8 *MENT.*—*Encourage families of students attending*
 9 *the educational institutions participating in Na-*
 10 *tional STEM Week to participate in STEM ac-*
 11 *tivities.*

12 “(C) *INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT.*—*Encourage*
 13 *STEM industries to—*

14 “(i) *engage with students enrolled in*
 15 *educational institutions by providing*
 16 *mentorship programs, site visits, and guest*
 17 *lectures; and*

18 “(ii) *support STEM education initia-*
 19 *tives at such educational institutions*
 20 *through funding, resources, and expertise.*

21 “(4) *EXPIRATION.*—*The authority to designate a*
 22 *week as National STEM Week and to carry out all*
 23 *programs and activities described in this subsection*
 24 *shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date*
 25 *of enactment of the National STEM Week Act.”.*

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