

Senate Engrossed

appropriation; STEM; learning; workforce development.

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SENATE BILL 1183

AN ACT

APPROPRIATING MONIES TO THE ARIZONA COMMERCE AUTHORITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Appropriation; Arizona commerce authority; STEM
3 learning and workforce development
4 opportunities; exemption; intent; report

5 A. The sum of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
6 fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Arizona commerce authority to
7 administer a grant program charged with cultivating STEM learning and STEM
8 workforce development opportunities in this state. The purpose of the
9 grant program is to build STEM networks and hubs to leverage assets on
10 every level of a community with this funding that gives priority to rural
11 areas. In coordination with the department of education's career and
12 technical education unit, the authority shall attempt to maximize and
13 connect STEM learning and STEM workforce development opportunities
14 provided by:

15 1. Entities in a county that have an established network of
16 cross-institutional partners from business, education, community and
17 government.

18 2. Schools and school districts for the purpose of teacher training
19 in STEM literacy.

20 3. Out-of-school programs that cultivate a community STEM network.

21 4. Museums and science centers with expertise in science,
22 technology, engineering or mathematics.

23 5. Higher education institutions that offer workforce development
24 in STEM fields.

25 6. Other entities that recognize the need for STEM competencies as
26 recognized by the authority.

27 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
28 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
29 to lapsing of appropriations.

30 C. The legislature intends that the appropriation made in
31 subsection A of this section be considered ongoing funding in future
32 years.

33 D. For the purposes of determining priority pursuant to subsection
34 A of this section, "rural area" means a location that is one of the
35 following:

36 1. Within the boundaries of tribal lands.

37 2. A city or town with a population of less than fifty thousand
38 persons.

39 3. A county with a population of less than eight hundred thousand
40 persons.

41 E. On or before December 31, 2023, the authority shall submit a
42 report to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
43 representatives on the distribution of grant monies under this section and
44 shall provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state.