

As Amended by Senate Committee

Session of 2008

SENATE BILL No. 507

By Committee on Education

1-29

10 AN ACT concerning education; creating the mathematics, engineering,
11 technology and science (METS) education innovation council; relating
12 to the powers and duties thereof.
13

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

15 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the mathematics, engi-
16 neering, technology and science (METS) education innovation council.
17 The council shall be composed of 14 members as follows:

18 (1) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of repre-
19 sentatives, one of which shall be a representative from a business or in-
20 dustry which requires secondary coursework in mathematics, engineer-
21 ing, technology or the sciences;

22 (2) two members appointed by the president of the senate, one of
23 which shall be a representative from a business or industry which requires
24 secondary coursework in mathematics, engineering, technology or the
25 sciences;

26 (3) one member appointed by the minority leader of the house of
27 representatives;

28 (4) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

29 (5) one member appointed by the governor, who shall be a represen-
30 tative from a business or industry which requires secondary coursework
31 in mathematics, engineering, technology or the sciences;

32 (6) three members appointed by the state board of education, at least
33 one of which shall be a licensed teacher who is endorsed in mathematics
34 or science **and at least one of which shall be a member of the board**
35 **of education of a school district;**

36 (7) three members appointed by the state board of regents, at least
37 one of which shall be a professor at a postsecondary educational institu-
38 tion; and

39 (8) the secretary of commerce, or the secretary's designee, who shall
40 serve ex officio and shall be a nonvoting member.

41 (b) The council is hereby attached to the department of commerce.
42 All budgeting, purchasing and related management functions of the coun-
43 cil shall be administered by the secretary of commerce. The secretary of

- 1 commerce shall provide office and meeting space and such clerical and
2 other staff assistance as may be necessary to assist the council in carrying
3 out its powers, duties and functions.
- 4 (c) Members of the council attending meetings of the council, or
5 attending a subcommittee meeting thereof authorized by the council, may
6 be paid compensation, subsistence allowances, mileage and other ex-
7 penses as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223, and amendments thereto.
- 8 (d) The members of the council shall annually select a chairperson
9 and vice-chairperson from the membership of the council.
- 10 (e) The council may meet at any time and at any place within the
11 state on the call of the chairperson. A quorum of the council shall be
12 seven voting members. All actions of the council shall be by motion
13 adopted by a majority of those voting members present when there is a
14 quorum.
- 15 (f) Upon the request of the council, the state board of education and
16 school districts shall provide any information and supporting documen-
17 tation related thereto.
- 18 (h) The council shall cease to exist on December 31, 2012.
- 19 Sec. 2. The council shall:
- 20 (a) Identify and evaluate innovative mathematics, engineering, tech-
21 nology and science programs available for implementation in Kansas
22 school districts and determine which program or programs would provide
23 Kansas students with the greatest competitive advantage for attaining pos-
24 tsecondary degrees in mathematics, engineering, technology or the sci-
25 ences and careers which require secondary coursework in mathematics,
26 engineering, technology or the sciences;
- 27 (b) provide counsel and support to school districts in the implemen-
28 tation of the program or programs identified pursuant to subsection (a),
29 especially in smaller and more rural districts;
- 30 (c) conduct continuous and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the
31 implementation and operation of the program or programs identified pur-
32 suant to subsection (a) as measured by: (1) Increased success on testing;
33 and (2) an increase in the number of high school graduates pursuing
34 degrees in mathematics, engineering, technology or the sciences;
- 35 (d) evaluate the effectiveness of school districts' efforts to commu-
36 nicate to parents and students the growing demand for professionals in
37 careers which require secondary coursework in mathematics, engineer-
38 ing, technology and the sciences, and efforts to encourage students to
39 pursue degrees in mathematics, engineering, technology or the sciences;
- 40 (e) examine the availability of teacher internships in the private sector
41 and make recommendations to guide the legislature on ways to increase
42 incentives for private sector business organizations to provide internship
43 opportunities that: (1) Provide teachers with real world experiences that

1 relate to or support the programs identified in subsection (a); or (2) allow
2 teachers to meet and develop relationships with private sector profes-
3 sionals capable of providing classroom presentations that relate to or sup-
4 port the programs identified in subsection (a);

5 (f) make recommendations, with the aid of the postsecondary tech-
6 nical education authority, on appropriate admissions requirements for
7 students entering certificate and associate degree programs in mathe-
8 matics, engineering, technology and the sciences. The requirements shall
9 be aligned with the state board of regents admission standards and shall
10 incorporate assessment programs designed to assess individual prepara-
11 tion in core categories, such as mathematics, engineering, technology and
12 the sciences, and to provide individuals with appropriate skill levels to
13 enter careers;

14 (g) examine and make recommendations on the appropriate level of
15 involvement of private sector professionals in the classroom, and any nec-
16 essary training to ensure the professionals' presentations effectively con-
17 vey the relevance of subjects being studied to careers that depend on
18 mathematics, engineering, technology or the sciences. The recommen-
19 dations shall also include suggestions on how technology may be incor-
20 porated to make such presentations available to remote areas via video,
21 internet or other distance learning methods;

22 ~~(h) examine the design, promotion and implementation of a plan re-~~
23 ~~quiring every eighth grade student in the Kansas public school system to~~
24 ~~develop a flexible career plan that allows for focused preparation toward~~
25 ~~career goals during secondary school;~~

26 ~~(h)~~ (h) evaluate the creation and maintenance of a longitudinal data
27 bank, which would maintain data on students from preschool through
28 career and support research consortia with seamless integration between
29 transition points. Such recommendations shall include guidance on how
30 to design the data bank to allow the necessary research to investigate the
31 efficacy of any of the council's recommendations for mathematics, engi-
32 neering, technology and science education;

33 ~~(i)~~ (i) conduct other studies, as requested by the legislature, relating
34 to the improving, reforming or restructuring of the educational system in
35 the areas of mathematics, engineering, technology and the sciences;

36 ~~(j)~~ (j) conduct hearings and receive and consider suggestions from
37 teachers, parents, the department of education, the state board of regents,
38 the state board of education, other governmental officers and agencies
39 and the general public concerning suggested improvements in the edu-
40 cational system in the areas of mathematics, engineering, technology and
41 the sciences; and

42 ~~(k)~~ (k) make and submit annual reports to the legislature on the work
43 and recommendations of the council. Such report also shall include rec-

1 ommendations for legislative changes and shall be submitted to the leg-
2 islature on or before December 31 of each year.
3 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
4 publication in the statute book.