



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 935

SENATE BILL NO. 2460

By Finney

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2295

By Pitts, Tidwell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to STEM education.

WHEREAS, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, more women enroll in higher education than men, yet there are fewer women enrolled in STEM related majors; and

WHEREAS, there are growing concerns about the value and need for highly trained scientists and engineers; and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity for women to take leadership positions in companies that specialize in STEM fields; and

WHEREAS, there are twice as many men enrolled in STEM programs as women; and

WHEREAS, women comprise almost sixty percent (60%) of today's college attendees, yet women only make up one quarter of STEM related jobs; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to encourage Tennessee's bright, young women to pursue STEM related fields, should they so desire; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks below the national average in percentage of college degrees and certificates awarded in STEM fields; and

WHEREAS, sixty-one percent (61%) of Tennessee's first-time community college students need remediation in math; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of degrees and certificates conferred in STEM fields to women has declined throughout the previous decade; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, STEM skills have stayed in demand even through the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has gone to great lengths to promote the importance of Tennessee's youth to pursue a degree in higher education in order to better prepare our students for the jobs of the future, many of which are in STEM related fields; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The month of August shall be designated "Women in STEM" month to raise awareness of the opportunities for women to pursue a career in a STEM related field.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 15, 2014

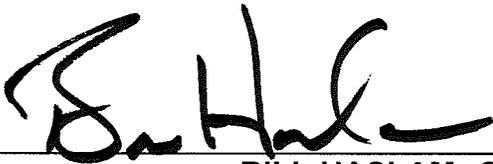


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 16th day of May 2014



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR