

Senate File 78 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 78

BY DONAHUE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to certain specified skilled trades, including
2 modifying provisions related to department of workforce
3 development internship programs, the Iowa summer youth corps
4 program, college student aid commission programs, the senior
5 year plus program, the science, technology, engineering, and
6 mathematics collaborative initiative within the innovation
7 division of the department of education, and curricula
8 provided in school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,
9 and charter schools to include the skilled trades, and
10 including applicability provisions.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 15H.5, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 3. The program shall provide grants for projects that
4 utilize a service-learning approach during the summer months
5 to enhance student achievement and summer learning retention,
6 teach meaningful job skills to Iowa youth, engage Iowa
7 youth in their communities, provide positive youth development
8 experiences, and address the needs of youth from families with
9 low income. The service-learning approach shall be integrated
10 into the program using curricula related to the skilled trades,
11 including trades related to welding, machinist technology,
12 tool and die making, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing,
13 automotive mechanics technology, and heating, ventilation, and
14 air conditioning technology, science, technology, engineering,
15 mathematics, social studies, civic literacy, or other appropriate
16 curricula identified by the department of education.

17 Sec. 2. Section 84A.21, subsection 2, paragraph c,
18 subparagraph (1), Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

19 (1) The purpose of the second component of the program is to
20 assist in placing Iowa students studying in the skilled trades,
21 including trades related to welding, machinist technology,
22 tool and die making, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing,
23 automotive mechanics technology, and heating, ventilation, and
24 air conditioning technology, or in the fields of science,
25 technology, engineering, and mathematics into internships that
26 lead to permanent positions with Iowa employers. The department
27 of workforce development shall collaborate with eligible
28 employers, including but not limited to innovative businesses,
29 to ensure that the interns hired are studying in such fields.
30 An Iowa employer may receive financial assistance on a matching
31 basis for a portion of the wages paid to an intern. If providing
32 financial assistance, the department of workforce development
33 shall provide the assistance on a reimbursement basis such that
34 for every two dollars of wages earned by the student, one dollar
35 paid by the employer is matched by one dollar from the department

1 of workforce development. The amount of financial assistance
2 shall not exceed five thousand dollars per internship. The
3 department of workforce development may adopt rules to administer
4 this component. In adopting rules to administer this component,
5 the department of workforce development shall adopt rules as
6 similar as possible to those adopted pursuant to paragraph "b".

7 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph h,
8 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (c), Code 2025, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (c) Applied sciences, technology, engineering, and
11 manufacturing, including transportation, distribution, logistics,
12 architecture, and construction, and curricula related to
13 the skilled trades, including trades related to welding,
14 machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry, electrical
15 work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and heating,
16 ventilation, and air conditioning technology.

17 Sec. 4. Section 256.111, subsections 3, 4, and 5, Code 2025,
18 are amended to read as follows:

19 3. A science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
20 collaborative initiative is established within the innovation
21 division for purposes of supporting activities directly
22 related to recruitment of prekindergarten through grade twelve
23 mathematics and science teachers for ongoing mathematics and
24 science programming for students enrolled in prekindergarten
25 through grade twelve and for the recruitment of grade one
26 through grade twelve teachers for ongoing programming related
27 to the skilled trades, including trades related to welding,
28 machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry, electrical
29 work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and heating,
30 ventilation, and air conditioning technology.

31 4. The collaborative initiative shall prioritize student
32 interest in achievement in science, technology, engineering, and
33 mathematics and the skilled trades, including trades related to
34 welding, machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry,
35 electrical work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and

1 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technology; reach
2 every student and teacher in every school district in the state;
3 identify, recruit, prepare, and support the best mathematics,
4 and science, and skilled trades teachers; and sustain exemplary
5 programs. The innovation division shall collaborate with
6 the community colleges to develop skilled trades and science,
7 technology, engineering, and mathematics professional development
8 programs for community college instructors and for purposes
9 of skilled trades and science, technology, engineering, and
10 mathematics curricula development.

11 5. Subject to an appropriation of moneys by the general
12 assembly, the innovation division shall administer the following:

13 a. Regional science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
14 networks for Iowa, the purpose of which is to equalize
15 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education
16 enrichment opportunities, and enrichment opportunities related
17 to skilled trades, including trades related to welding,
18 machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry, electrical
19 work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and heating,
20 ventilation, and air conditioning technology, that are available
21 to learners statewide. The innovation division shall establish
22 six geographically similar regional science, technology,
23 engineering, and mathematics networks across Iowa that complement
24 and leverage existing resources, including extension service
25 assets, area education agencies, state accredited postsecondary
26 institutions, informal educational centers, school districts,
27 economic development zones, and existing public and private
28 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics partnerships.
29 Each network shall be managed by a highly qualified science,
30 technology, engineering, and mathematics and skilled trades
31 advocate positioned at a network hub to be determined through
32 a competitive application process. Oversight for each regional
33 network shall be provided by a regional advisory board.
34 Members of the board shall be appointed by the governor. The
35 membership shall represent prekindergarten through grade twelve

1 school districts and schools, and higher education, business,
2 nonprofit organizations, youth agencies, and other appropriate
3 stakeholders.

4 b. A focused array of the best skilled trades and
5 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enrichment
6 opportunities, selected through a competitive application
7 process, that can be expanded to meet future needs. A limited,
8 focused list of selected exemplary programs shall be made
9 available to each regional network.

10 c. Statewide skilled trades and science, technology,
11 engineering, and mathematics programming designed to increase
12 participation of students and teachers in successful learning
13 experiences; to increase the number of science, technology,
14 engineering, and mathematics-related teaching majors offered by
15 the state's universities; to increase the number of skilled
16 trades programs offered by the state accredited postsecondary
17 institutions; to elevate public awareness of the opportunities;
18 and to increase collaboration and partnerships.

19 Sec. 5. Section 256.210, subsection 6, paragraph b, Code
20 2025, is amended to read as follows:

21 b. The adjutant general shall submit a report to the governor
22 and the general assembly by December 31 of each year listing the
23 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related career
24 fields, and the career fields related to the skilled trades,
25 including trades related to welding, machinist technology,
26 tool and die making, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing,
27 automotive mechanics technology, and heating, ventilation, and
28 air conditioning technology, that the adjutant general plans to
29 focus on in providing educational incentives under this section
30 and section 256.211 using funds available under this subsection
31 for that fiscal year.

32 Sec. 6. Section 256.211, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
33 2025, is amended to read as follows:

34 a. The adjutant general has the authority under this section
35 to authorize the expenditure of unencumbered or unobligated funds

1 as described in section 256.210, subsection 6, to recruit or
2 retain individuals who have completed or are pursuing training
3 in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related
4 military occupational specialties, occupational specialties
5 related to the skilled trades, including trades related to
6 welding, machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry,
7 electrical work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and
8 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technology, or air
9 force specialty codes by issuing awards through a national guard
10 student loan repayment program in accordance with subsection 2
11 or by providing a scholarship award to an eligible member of
12 the national guard who is enrolled at an institution defined
13 in section 256.210, subsection 1, paragraph "d", in a master's
14 degree program that is in compliance with the federal Edith
15 Nourse Rogers STEM scholarship program established under 38
16 U.S.C. §3320 in accordance with the requirements of subsection 3.

17 Sec. 7. Section 256.218, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
18 2025, is amended to read as follows:

19 b. The applicant is preparing to teach in fields including
20 but not limited to science, technology, engineering, or
21 mathematics; English as a second language or special education
22 instruction; the skilled trades, including trades related to
23 welding, machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry,
24 electrical work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and
25 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technology; or is
26 preparing to teach in a hard-to-staff subject as identified
27 by the department. The department shall take into account
28 the varying regional needs in the state for teachers in these
29 subject areas when applying the criterion of this paragraph. The
30 department shall annually identify and designate hard-to-staff
31 subjects for the purpose of this paragraph. The eligibility of
32 an applicant who receives a teach Iowa scholar grant and who
33 is preparing to teach in a hard-to-staff subject as identified
34 by the department shall not be affected in subsequent years if
35 the department does not continue to identify that subject as a

1 hard-to-staff subject.

2 Sec. 8. Section 261E.3, subsection 3, paragraph j, Code 2025,
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 j. All eligible postsecondary institutions providing
5 programming under this chapter shall include the unique student
6 identifier assigned to students while in the kindergarten through
7 grade twelve system as a part of the institution's student
8 data management system. Eligible postsecondary institutions
9 providing programming under this chapter shall cooperate with
10 the department on data requests related to the programming.
11 All eligible postsecondary institutions providing programming
12 under this chapter shall collect data and report to the
13 department on the proportion of females and minorities enrolled
14 in educational opportunities related to the skilled trades,
15 including trades related to welding, machinist technology,
16 tool and die making, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing,
17 automotive mechanics technology, and heating, ventilation,
18 and air conditioning technology, or in science, technology,
19 engineering, and mathematics-oriented educational opportunities
20 provided in accordance with this chapter. The department shall
21 submit the programming data and the department's findings and
22 recommendations in a report to the general assembly annually by
23 January 15.

24 Sec. 9. STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL. The science, technology,
25 engineering, and math advisory council, created by the governor
26 of this state by executive order on July 26, 2011, and modified
27 by executive order on May 15, 2013, shall do all of the
28 following:

29 1. Using existing funding and programmatic support, provide
30 opportunities for students enrolled in kindergarten through
31 grade twelve to experience science, technology, engineering, and
32 mathematics through the skilled trades, including trades related
33 to welding, machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry,
34 electrical work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and
35 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technology.

1 2. Authorize teachers participating in externship programs
2 facilitated by the council to participate in externship programs
3 related to the skilled trades, including trades related to
4 welding, machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry,
5 electrical work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and
6 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technology.

7 3. Include and highlight the skilled trades, including
8 trades related to welding, machinist technology, tool and
9 die making, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, automotive
10 mechanics technology, and heating, ventilation, and air
11 conditioning technology, as part of the council's efforts to
12 promote educational opportunities related to science, technology,
13 engineering, and math within this state's education system and
14 workforce.

15 Sec. 10. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to applications
16 submitted to the college student aid commission on or after the
17 effective date of this Act:

18 1. The section of this Act amending section 256.211.

19 2. The section of this Act amending section 256.218.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill relates to certain specified skilled trades,
24 including modifying provisions related to department of workforce
25 development internship programs, the Iowa summer youth corps
26 program, college student aid commission (CSAC) programs, the
27 senior year plus program, the science, technology, engineering,
28 and mathematics (STEM collaborative initiative) within the
29 innovation division of the department of education, and curricula
30 provided in school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and
31 charter schools to include skilled trades.

32 Current law establishes the Iowa youth summer corps program
33 within the Iowa commission on volunteer services. The program
34 provides grants for projects that utilize a service-learning
35 approach during the summer months to enhance student achievement

1 and summer learning retention, teach meaningful job skills to
2 Iowa youth, engage Iowa youth in their communities, provide
3 positive youth development experiences, and address the needs
4 of youth from families with low income. Under the program,
5 the service-learning approach is to be integrated into the
6 program using science, technology, engineering, mathematics,
7 social studies, civic literacy, or other appropriate curricula
8 identified by the department of education (DE). The bill
9 establishes that the service-learning approach may also be
10 integrated into the program using curricula related to the
11 skilled trades.

12 Current law requires the department of workforce development
13 to establish an internship program that assists in placing
14 Iowa students studying in the fields of science, technology,
15 engineering, and mathematics into internships that lead to
16 permanent positions with Iowa employers. The bill provides
17 that this program shall also assist in placing Iowa students
18 studying skilled trades, including trades related to welding,
19 machinist technology, tool and die making, carpentry, electrical
20 work, plumbing, automotive mechanics technology, and heating,
21 ventilation, and air conditioning technology (skilled trades)
22 into internships that lead to permanent positions with Iowa
23 employers.

24 Current law requires that students enrolled in school
25 districts and charter schools in grades 9 through 12
26 receive instruction in certain career and technical education
27 service areas, including applied sciences, technology,
28 engineering, manufacturing, transportation, distribution,
29 logistics, architecture, and construction. The bill provides
30 that such instruction also include curricula related to the
31 skilled trades. Current law also establishes that these career
32 and technical education service areas be incorporated into
33 the career exploration and development curriculum provided to
34 students enrolled in school districts, accredited nonpublic
35 schools, and charter schools in grades seven and eight.

1 Current law establishes the STEM collaborative initiative
2 within the innovation division of the department of education.
3 The purpose of the STEM collaborative initiative is to support
4 activities related to recruitment of mathematics and science
5 teachers for ongoing mathematics and science programming. The
6 bill establishes that another purpose of the STEM collaborative
7 initiative is to support activities related to the recruitment
8 of teachers for ongoing programming related to the skilled
9 trades. The bill requires the STEM collaborative initiative to,
10 among other duties, prioritize student interest in achievement
11 in the skilled trades and identify, recruit, prepare, and
12 support the best skilled trades teachers. The bill also
13 requires the innovation division to collaborate with community
14 colleges to develop skilled trades professional development
15 programs for community college instructors and to develop skilled
16 trades curricula. Additionally, the bill requires the STEM
17 collaborative initiative to administer regional networks for
18 Iowa to provide enrichment opportunities related to the skilled
19 trades, a focused array of the best skilled trades enrichment
20 opportunities that can be expanded to meet future needs, and
21 statewide skilled trades programming.

22 Current law establishes the national guard service scholarship
23 program within the CSAC. The program provides annual awards to
24 Iowa national guard members who attend eligible Iowa colleges
25 and universities. The bill requires the adjutant general
26 to submit a report to the governor and the general assembly
27 listing the career fields related to the skilled trades that
28 the adjutant general plans to focus on in providing educational
29 incentives under the program and under the national guard
30 STEM-related recruitment and retention incentive program. The
31 bill establishes that the adjutant general may authorize the
32 expenditure of unencumbered or unobligated funds under the
33 national guard service scholarship program to recruit or retain
34 individuals who have completed or are pursuing training in
35 occupational specialties related to the skilled trades. This

1 provision applies to applications submitted to the CSAC on or
2 after the effective date of the bill.

3 Current law establishes the teach Iowa scholar program within
4 the CSAC. The program provides qualified Iowa teachers with
5 awards for teaching in Iowa schools in designated shortage areas.
6 The bill establishes that criteria under the program include that
7 an applicant be preparing to teach in fields relating to the
8 skilled trades. This provision applies to applications submitted
9 to the CSAC on or after the effective date of the bill.

10 The bill requires all eligible postsecondary institutions
11 providing programming under the senior year plus program to
12 collect data and report to DE on the proportion of females and
13 minorities enrolled in educational opportunities related to the
14 skilled trades.

15 The bill requires the science, technology, engineering, and
16 math advisory council (STEM council) created by the governor by
17 executive order to take certain actions, including use existing
18 funding and programmatic support to provide opportunities for
19 students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 to experience
20 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through the
21 skilled trades, authorize teachers participating in externship
22 programs facilitated by the STEM council to participate in
23 externship programs related to the skilled trades, and include
24 and highlight the skilled trades as part of the STEM council's
25 efforts to promote educational opportunities related to science,
26 technology, engineering, and math within this state's education
27 system and workforce.