

REFERENCE TITLE: appropriation; STEM; learning; workforce development

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HB 2724

Introduced by
Representatives Marshall: Biasiucci, Gillette, Harris, Martinez, Smith

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 and semirural areas. The authority shall attempt to maximize and connect
12 STEM learning and STEM workforce development opportunities provided by:

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

16 2. Schools and school districts for the purpose of teacher training
17 in STEM literacy.

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

19 4. Museums and science centers with expertise in science,
20 technology, engineering or mathematics.

21 5. Higher education institutions that offer workforce development
22 in STEM fields.

23 6. Other entities that recognize the need for STEM competencies as
24 recognized by the authority.

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

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

31 D. For the purposes of categorizing rural and semirural areas, the
32 authority shall use the United States department of agriculture's most
33 recent rural-urban continuum code scheme. The authority shall consider
34 codes 1 and 2 as urban, codes 3, 4 and 5 as semirural and codes 6, 7, 8, 9
35 and 10 as rural.

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