

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS24910

This bill provides an opportunity for public schools to earn a STEM school designation or STEM program designation. This bill defines terms, creates the STEM designation for public schools, requires the State Board of Education and STEM Action Center to collaborate to develop the requirements for a STEM designation and to implement an annual process for review of schools and programs seeking a STEM designation. STEM schools and programs have gained popularity in recent years. Setting a common minimum standard for earning a STEM designation will help to inform parents and students about the quality and expectations of the schools or programs in which they are enrolling their students. A uniform STEM designation will assure a minimum quality standard.

### FISCAL NOTE

The STEM school designation will be funded through existing funds appropriated to the STEM Action Center. Appropriated funds will be provided to help schools attain the standards established to receive the STEM designation and may also be granted to schools who have received the STEM designation to sustain high quality STEM programs and educator professional development. Schools would be assessed by a third party reviewer and awards granted based on their progression toward the STEM designation.

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**DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).**