



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New council will promote STEM education for Oregon students**

*HB 2636C creates the STEM Council to advance education in science, technology, engineering and math*

SALEM—Today the Oregon Senate voted to establish a permanent council to research and promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in Oregon schools. House Bill 2636C, which creates the STEM Investment Council in the office of the Chief Education Officer, passed the Senate on a vote of 30-0.

“Oregon has an opportunity to make a strong investment in the future of its children; increasing access to STEM programs creates more career pathways to the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” said Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-Beaverton), chief sponsor of the bill. “Investing in STEM education will also help us grow a highly trained workforce to support and recruit more businesses to Oregon.”

The STEM Council established by bill is charged with advancing initiatives and awarding grants to invest in programs that offer students STEM coursework. The council will set ambitious goals for STEM education and evaluate how programs translate into success in college and in future careers.

“Increasing STEM learning opportunities in Oregon’s education system will give students another chance to learn critical skills and gain experience in high-paying career fields,” said Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene). “Oregon’s economy thrives on innovation, and it’s imperative that the next generation has the expertise and training to bring us new advances in technology.”

The bill originated from an interim workgroup that convened employers, educators, and other experts who provided recommendations to increase STEM access in Oregon’s public schools.

House Bill 2636C now goes to Governor John A. Kitzhaber for his signature.

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