

By Senator Hutson

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the STEM Teachers Pilot Program;  
3           creating s. 1012.571, F.S.; requiring the Department  
4           of Education to implement and administer the STEM  
5           Teachers Pilot Program; authorizing certain school  
6           districts to hire an individual who is not a certified  
7           educator, but who holds a specified degree, to teach  
8           courses related to his or her degree; requiring an  
9           individual hired through the pilot program to meet  
10          specified criteria; requiring the department to submit  
11          a report to the Legislature, which must include a  
12          recommendation on continuing the pilot program;  
13          providing for rulemaking; providing an effective date.  
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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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17           Section 1. Section 1012.571, Florida Statutes, is created  
18           to read:

19           1012.571 STEM Teachers Pilot Program.-

20           (1) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the  
21           Department of Education shall implement and administer a 5-year  
22           STEM Teachers Pilot Program.

23           (2) Under the pilot program, a school district that is  
24           ranked in the top 10 percent of school districts, as determined  
25           by the district grade calculated under s. 1008.34, may hire as a  
26           teacher an individual who does not hold a professional or  
27           temporary certificate to teach in a regular academic field in  
28           the kindergarten through grade 12 school program. The individual  
29           must hold at least a master's degree in the area of science,

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30 technology, engineering, or mathematics, and the course that he  
31 or she will teach must be related to his or her degree.

32 (3) An individual hired under the pilot program must meet  
33 the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(e),  
34 and (2)(f) and document receipt of at least a master's degree in  
35 the area of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics  
36 from an accredited institution of higher learning.

37 (4) At the conclusion of the pilot program, the department  
38 shall analyze the performance data of students within  
39 participating school districts and submit a report on the  
40 findings to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
41 House of Representatives. At a minimum, the report must include  
42 a recommendation for continuing or terminating the pilot  
43 program.

44 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
45 administer this section.

46 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.