

1 AN ACT relating to robotics.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Advanced manufacturing" means the development of a robot beyond its
7 prefabricated components for the purpose of a robotics program;

8 (b) "Delivery organization" means a qualified organization that is the primary
9 facilitator of a robotics program, but does not mean a qualified organization
10 other than the primary facilitator of the robotics program that may supply
11 the facility where a robotics program is to be hosted;

12 (c) "Eligible school" means a:

13 1. Kentucky public school, including a public charter school; and

14 2. Nonpublic school certified by the Kentucky Board of Education in
15 accordance with KRS 156.160(2);

16 (d) "Eligible team" means a team organized for project-based robot
17 development and includes:

18 1. Team members who are all:

19 a. Kentucky residents;

20 b. Students in grades seven (7) to twelve (12); and

21 c. Either:

22 i. Enrolled in an eligible school; or

23 ii. Are members of a qualified organization; and

24 2. At least two (2) team coaches;

25 (e) "Fund" means the robotics program fund established in subsection (2) of
26 this section;

27 (f) "Qualified organization" means a nonprofit organization that has:

1 1. Received tax-exempt status from the United States Internal Revenue
 2 Service;

3 2. Registered with the Kentucky Secretary of State;

4 3. An organizational purpose of encouraging young people to develop an
 5 interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

6 4. A history of involvement with robotics programs as an eligible team or
 7 a delivery organization;

8 (g) "Robotics program" means a competition or event in Kentucky that:

9 1. Requires participating eligible teams to design, construct, program,
 10 and operate robots;

11 2. Provides competition opportunities between eligible teams; and

12 3. Is facilitated by a delivery organization that encourages eligible teams
 13 to use innovative design and advanced manufacturing technologies;
 14 and

15 (h) "Team coach" means an adult who is:

16 1. An employee of an eligible school or a registered mentor or coach for
 17 a qualified organization; and

18 2. Verified by the team coach's eligible school or qualified organization
 19 to have, within the past three (3) years, submitted to a national and
 20 state criminal background check by the Department of Kentucky State
 21 Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have a clear CA/N
 22 check as defined in KRS 160.380, and does not meet any disqualifying
 23 factor under KRS 160.380(5).

24 (2) There is hereby established in the State Treasury a trust and agency account to be
 25 known as the robotics program fund. The fund shall consist of moneys received
 26 from state appropriations, gifts, grants, federal funds, and any other funds both
 27 public and private. The State Treasurer shall invest the fund as all other state

1 funds are invested and income from investment of the fund shall be credited to
2 the fund. The fund shall be attached to the Kentucky Department of Education
3 for administrative and reporting purposes. As funds are available, amounts
4 deposited in the fund shall be used as follows and for no other purpose:

5 (a) Awarding grants to eligible teams to develop and implement competitive
6 robotics designs for robotics programs verified by the Robotics Funding
7 Selection Committee, established in subsection (3) of this section, including
8 but not limited to:

9 1. Payment of a stipend for one (1) or more team coach;

10 2. Fees, kits, and supplies required to establish or maintain an eligible
11 team and participate in a robotics program; and

12 3. Expenses associated with attendance at a robotics program;

13 (b) Awarding grants to delivery organizations for robotics programs verified by
14 the Robotics Funding Selection Committee, including but not limited to:

15 1. Infrastructure necessary for a robotics program;

16 2. Operational costs of a robotics program; and

17 3. Other expenses directly associated with the administration of a
18 robotics program being facilitated by the delivery organization; and

19 (c) Administrative costs of the department in carrying out the provisions of this
20 section not to exceed five percent (5%) of available funds or seventy-five
21 thousand dollars (\$75,000) annually, whichever is less.

22 Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, fund amounts not expended at the close of a fiscal
23 year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

24 (3) (a) The Robotics Funding Selection Committee is hereby established for the
25 purpose of awarding grants from the robotics program fund to eligible
26 teams and delivery organizations to expand opportunities, increase interest,
27 and improve skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

through robotics programs that:

1. Provide hands-on learning experiences;
2. Establish community partnerships to increase awareness of local workforce and postsecondary opportunities;
3. Highlight career opportunities through adult mentors; and
4. Prioritize a connection to manufacturing, machining, and fabrication skills for students in grades nine (9) to twelve (12).

(b) The Robotics Funding Selection Committee shall be composed of the following individuals:

1. One (1) representative of the Council on Postsecondary Education;
2. One (1) representative of AdvanceKentucky or, upon AdvanceKentucky's termination, the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation;
3. One (1) representative of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System;
4. One (1) representative of the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;
- and
5. One (1) representative of the Office of Career and Technical Education.

(c) Each member of the committee shall serve for a term of three (3) years or until a successor is appointed by the member's organization. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as they were appointed.

(d) By April 1, 2027, the Robotics Funding Selection Committee shall promulgate administrative regulations pursuant KRS Chapter 13A to establish procedures to receive and review grant applications and award grants to eligible teams and delivery organizations for allowable expenses. The administrative regulations shall include:

- 1 1. A process to verify robotics programs before eligible teams and
- 2 delivery organizations may apply for funding;
- 3 2. A grant application process for eligible teams and delivery
- 4 organizations. The committee shall prioritize applications that show
- 5 evidence of advanced manufacturing;
- 6 3. Application selection criteria based on the required application
- 7 elements for an eligible team under subsection (4) of this section and
- 8 for delivery organizations under subsection (5) of this section;
- 9 4. An established maximum grant award allotment for an eligible team;
- 10 5. An established maximum grant award allotment for a delivery
- 11 organization, which shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars
- 12 (\$200,000) every five (5) years; and
- 13 6. An annual calendar which shall include a single period of ninety (90)
- 14 consecutive days during which the committee may accept grant
- 15 applications. Applications for grants from delivery organizations and
- 16 eligible teams shall be submitted during the same application window.
- 17 (e) The committee shall first verify robotics programs before eligible teams and
- 18 delivery organizations may apply for grants. No grant shall be awarded
- 19 without an application for a grant.
- 20 (f) The committee shall award grants in a manner that prioritizes:
- 21 1. Robotics programs that prioritize advanced manufacturing;
- 22 2. Maximizing the number of eligible teams to receive funds, with an
- 23 emphasis on increasing the number of high school eligible teams; and
- 24 3. Expanding the geographical distribution of eligible teams.
- 25 (g) The committee shall be attached to the department for administrative and
- 26 reporting purposes.
- 27 (4) A grant application from an eligible team shall at a minimum contain the

1 following:

2 (a) Identification of eligible team membership, team coaches, and the grade
3 level of eligible team members;

4 (b) A statement of need;

5 (c) Eligible team history, including previous participation in a robotics
6 program, if any;

7 (d) A financial strategy and budget;

8 (e) Registration for a robotics program, including level and complexity, and a
9 commitment by the eligible team to participate in all robotics programs for
10 which it is registered or assigned, except in instances when circumstances
11 beyond the reasonable control of the eligible team prevent participation;

12 (f) A commitment to creating an original, iteratively designed robot, including
13 features that the eligible team designs and manufactures themselves to be
14 used in the robotics program;

15 (g) A letter of endorsement for the eligible team from the eligible school in
16 which the students are enrolled in or the qualified organization in which the
17 students are members; and

18 (h) Proof of at least a twenty-five percent (25%) match of the total grant
19 amount requested, which may consist of monetary or in-kind contributions.

20 (5) A grant application for a delivery organization for purposes of facilitating a
21 robotics program shall at a minimum include:

22 (a) A statement of need for the robotics program, including level and
23 complexity of competition;

24 (b) The delivery organization's history of hosting robotics programs, if any;

25 (c) Proof, if any, of the delivery organization's prioritization of advanced
26 manufacturing;

27 (d) A financial strategy and budget for the robotics program in which the

1 delivery organization is requesting funds;

2 (e) Proof of at least a twenty-five percent (25%) match of the total grant
 3 amount requested, which may consist of monetary or in-kind contributions;

4 and

5 (f) An accommodation plan for the participation of students with disabilities
 6 who participate in the delivery organization's robotics program.

7 (6) No eligible school or delivery organization shall restrict or withhold a stipend
 8 provided under this section designated for a team coach who meets the eligibility
 9 requirements set forth in this section.

10 (7) By August 1 of each year, the department shall report to the Legislative Research
 11 Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and
 12 Revenue and the appropriate Interim Joint Committee on Education the income
 13 and expenditures of the robotics program fund for the immediately preceding
 14 state fiscal year, including the number of:

15 (a) Eligible teams awarded, including the grade levels of participating students,
 16 from the fund;

17 (b) Delivery organizations awarded from the fund; and

18 (c) Robotics programs facilitated with awards from the fund, including the total
 19 number of students and eligible teams that attended each robotics program.

20 ➔Section 2. This Act may be cited as the Advanced Manufacturing Through
 21 Robotics Education Act.