

1 A RESOLUTION urging the Kentucky Department of Education to create a task  
2 force to consider ways to improve diversity in STEAM areas of education.

3 WHEREAS, literacy in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics  
4 (STEAM) is critical to the progress and prosperity of our great Commonwealth and  
5 Nation; and

6 WHEREAS, strong STEAM education is essential to preparing Kentucky students  
7 for the future of labor and industry in this competitive, global economy; and

8 WHEREAS, research supports that children who are highly engaged in the arts  
9 perform better academically, are more engaged in school, achieve higher levels of  
10 postsecondary education, and are more engaged in positive civic pursuits beyond their  
11 school years; and

12 WHEREAS, inclusive access to STEAM education will better equip our students,  
13 the future workforce of this Commonwealth, to approach complex problems in STEAM  
14 areas from more diverse and creative perspectives; and

15 WHEREAS, an emphasis on reaching out to students of color, low-income students,  
16 female students, and other student groups underrepresented in the different STEAM areas  
17 to encourage interest and participation is vital to meeting our workforce needs; and

18 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Education is the state agency best suited  
19 for assessing the diverse obstacles faced by schools across the Commonwealth, including  
20 rural and urban schools, in the promotion of STEAM education; and

21 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Education is also in a prime position to  
22 ensure that teachers across the Commonwealth are equipped with high-quality STEAM  
23 educational resources and information; and

24 WHEREAS, the General Assembly previously expressed a commitment to STEAM  
25 education in the Commonwealth in enacting KRS 158.645 and KRS 158.845 to 158.849;

26 NOW, THEREFORE,

27 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***

1 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

2       ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives urges the Kentucky Department of  
3 Education to establish a task force to consider ways to improve diversity in different  
4 fields of STEAM education in Kentucky, with an emphasis on increasing the participation  
5 of student groups traditionally underrepresented in each of the STEAM fields, including  
6 but not limited to students of color, low-income students, and female students.

7       ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this  
8 Resolution and notification of its adoption to the Commissioner of the Kentucky  
9 Department of Education and Representative Attica Scott.