SENATE DOCKET, NO. 2418 FILED ON: 2/25/2010

SENATE . . . . . No. 2276

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Ten

An Act to improve STEM education in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Paragraph 8 of section 1G of Chapter 15 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following 7 sentences:-

The council shall create a task force composed of members who have demonstrated scholarship or creativity in, or distinguished service to, science, technology, engineering or mathematics, and shall be broadly representative of those areas. The task force shall consist of 15 members: 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts school building authority; 11 members shall be appointed by the board: 7 of whom shall be science and mathematics educators in public schools throughout the commonwealth; 1 of whom shall be a science educator from a public high school; 1 of whom shall be a mathematics educator from a public high school; 1 of whom shall be a science educator from a public middle school; 1 of whom shall be a mathematics educator from a public middle school; 1 of whom shall be a science educator from a public elementary school; 1 of whom shall be a mathematics educator from a public elementary school; and 2 of whom shall be curriculum coordinators representing distinct STEM subject areas.

The task force shall also include 3 members whom shall be representatives of business firms in the areas of science, technology, engineering or mathematics; 2 of whom shall represent non-profit science or math education research organizations; provided further the 3 representatives shall be appointed by the Robert H. Goddard Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education established under section 4A of chapter 15A.

The task force shall investigate and study STEM education in the commonwealth, including but not limited to the following: a study of current science laboratory facilities and equipment in public schools for all grade levels, a review of curricula used for science and math education in grades kindergarten through twelve, and a comprehensive review of current professional development programs in the science, technology, engineering and math areas throughout the commonwealth. The task force shall develop recommendations for the improvement of curricula and facilities for science, technology, engineering and math education in grades kindergarten to 12, inclusive. Said recommendations shall include ways to increase inquiry based science education. The taskforce shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out such recommendations, by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and house who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint committee on education on or before December 31, 2010.