

**SB 297 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Abolishes the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Investment Council. Establishes the Career and Technical Education (CTE) - STEM Investment Council in the Chief Education Office. Establishes membership and meeting requirements. Outlines purpose, duties and responsibilities of the council. Requires the council to develop and oversee a long-term strategic plan and provide regular reports. Requires the council to make recommendations on applications to the Career and Technical Education Revitalization Grant Program. Establishes a grant committee for that program. Revises methods for awarding grants related to STEM education and to CTE education that can lead to high wage and high demand jobs. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the Chief Education Office, project-based learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and in career and technical education improve graduation rates. The existing STEM council was created to guide the state's development of long-term strategies to position students for STEM/CTE careers. Regional STEM Hubs were also created to connect education and the work force. The state's STEM education plan was published in November, 2016 and outlines the state's vision and goals, along with operational plans to achieve those goals.