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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 4352

04/12/2018 Authored by Torkelson  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to capital investment; appropriating money for a regional STEM Education  
1.3 Center with a focus on agriculture; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. STEM EDUCATION WITH A FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Definition. For purposes of this act, "STEM education with a focus on  
1.7 agriculture" means a voluntary collaboration of AGlobal Education, the kindergarten through  
1.8 grade 12 school districts, postsecondary institutions, businesses, and other regional public  
1.9 and private partners as well as international collaboration that works to increase access,  
1.10 training, and career pathways opportunities in STEM Education Center with a focus on  
1.11 agriculture, and cultural competence for students and teachers in greater Minnesota through  
1.12 project-based learning.

1.13 Subd. 2. Establishment. (a) AGlobal Education shall develop a STEM education center  
1.14 to increase access to STEM careers with a focus on agriculture for greater Minnesota with  
1.15 an emphasis on grades 6 to 12. The STEM center with a focus on agriculture shall:

1.16 (1) focus on the development of STEM labs and agriculture programs that encourage  
1.17 local, state, and international collaboration between businesses, postsecondary institutions,  
1.18 and school districts in greater Minnesota;

1.19 (2) develop new career pathways for STEM with an emphasis on agriculture and cultural  
1.20 and global competence that focus on the industry sectors that fuel the rural regional, state,  
1.21 national, and international economy in order to prepare students to work in one set of  
1.22 interconnected, global environment;

2.1 (3) facilitate the development of highly trained and knowledgeable students who are  
 2.2 equipped with STEM and global competence as well as technical and workplace skills  
 2.3 needed to navigate diverse communities and to compete in the global market as regional,  
 2.4 national, and international employees or employers;

2.5 (4) improve access to STEM with a focus on agriculture programs for students in greater  
 2.6 Minnesota by developing public and private partnerships with business and industry leaders  
 2.7 and by increasing coordination of kindergarten through grade 12 and postsecondary education  
 2.8 as well as international collaboration;

2.9 (5) increase family and student awareness in STEM and agriculture careers, its benefits  
 2.10 and access to training opportunities, and provide enhancement to robust experimental STEM  
 2.11 labs with project-based learning focusing on agriculture; and

2.12 (6) provide access and training to educators for STEM professional development in  
 2.13 order to prepare students for a global mindset.

2.14 (b) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (a), the STEM lab center will:

2.15 (1) address access for international exchange, international competence in STEM  
 2.16 curriculum for educators, and scientific research in agriculture;

2.17 (2) provide access to induction in STEM education as well as mentorship by industry  
 2.18 for educators in order to impact retention of STEM educators in the teaching profession;

2.19 (3) provide access and opportunities for inquiry and investigation through project-based  
 2.20 learning with postsecondary and industry partnerships for students exploring STEM education  
 2.21 with a focus on agriculture; and

2.22 (4) provide access to equitable opportunities in greater Minnesota and the region for  
 2.23 students to participate in the STEM lab center at the local and international levels.

2.24 Subd. 3. **AGlobal Education - STEM center advisory committee.** AGlobal Education  
 2.25 shall establish a STEM education advisory committee to advise the center on programming  
 2.26 with a focus on agriculture and global competence.

2.27 Subd. 4. **Private funding.** AGlobal Education may receive other sources of funds for  
 2.28 the project. All funds received shall be administered by AGlobal Education.

2.29 Subd. 5. **Reporting requirement.** AGlobal Education must submit an annual report to  
 2.30 the legislature and the commissioner of agriculture by January 15. The annual report must  
 2.31 contain a financial report for the preceding fiscal year. The first report is due no later than  
 2.32 January 15, 2020.

3.1 Sec. 2. **STEM EDUCATION CENTER.**

3.2 Subdivision 1. **Appropriation.** (a) \$3,500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds  
3.3 fund to the commissioner of education for a grant to the city of Sleepy Eye for design,  
3.4 demolition, construction of new space, renovation of existing space, furnishing, equipping,  
3.5 and other capital improvements necessary to redevelop the former Orchid Inn event center  
3.6 in Sleepy Eye for use as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education  
3.7 Center with an emphasis on agriculture. The city may enter into a lease or management  
3.8 agreement under Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.695, for operation of the center.

3.9 (b) The commissioner of administration may provide project management services to  
3.10 assist the commissioner of education with oversight of the project. This appropriation is  
3.11 available when the commissioner of management and budget determines that sufficient  
3.12 resources have been committed to complete the project, as required by Minnesota Statutes,  
3.13 section 16A.502.

3.14 Subd. 2. **Bond sale.** To provide the money appropriated in this section from the bond  
3.15 proceeds fund, the commissioner of management and budget shall sell and issue bonds of  
3.16 the state in an amount up to \$3,500,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect  
3.17 prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota  
3.18 Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

3.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.