

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the STEM Teachers Pilot Program;
 3 creating s. 1012.571, F.S.; requiring the Department
 4 of Education to administer the STEM Teachers Pilot
 5 Program; authorizing certain school districts to hire
 6 an individual who is not a certified educator, but who
 7 holds a specified degree, to teach courses related to
 8 his or her degree; requiring an individual hired
 9 through the pilot program to meet specified criteria;
 10 requiring the department to submit a report to the
 11 Legislature; providing for rulemaking; providing an
 12 effective date.

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 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 16 Section 1. Section 1012.571, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 1012.571 STEM Teachers Pilot Program.—

19 (1) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the
 20 Department of Education shall administer the 5-year STEM
 21 Teachers Pilot Program.

22 (2) The pilot program shall allow a school district that
 23 is ranked in the top 10 percent of school districts based on the
 24 district grade required under s. 1008.34 to hire an individual
 25 who does not hold a professional or temporary certificate to
 26 teach in an academic field in kindergarten through grade 12 if

27 the individual holds a master's degree or higher in the area of
28 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics and will be
29 teaching a course related to his or her degree.

30 (3) An individual hired through the pilot program must
31 meet the requirements of s. 1012.56(2) (a), (b), (d), (e), and
32 (f) and document receipt of a master's degree or higher in the
33 area of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics from an
34 accredited institution of higher learning.

35 (4) At the conclusion of the pilot program, the department
36 shall analyze the performance data of students within
37 participating school districts and submit to the President of
38 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a
39 report that, at a minimum, includes a recommendation for
40 continuing or terminating the pilot program.

41 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
42 administer this section.

43 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.