

# HOUSE BILL 531

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CF SB 990

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By: Delegates Wu, Ebersole, Forbes, Hill, Kaufman, J. Long, Moreno, Palakovich Carr, Patterson, Schindler, Simmons, Spiegel, Stinnett, and Wims ~~Wims~~ Wims, Feldmark, Hornberger, Miller, Mireku-North, Vogel, and Young

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 6, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 State Department of Education – Public Schools STEM and Robotics Program  
3 ~~Task Force Establishment – Study~~

4 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Public Schools STEM and Robotics Program Task~~  
5 ~~Force to collect information on and requiring the State Department of Education to~~  
6 study existing STEM and robotics programs in public schools in the State ~~and in~~  
7 ~~other states~~ to determine the feasibility of establishing competitive extracurricular  
8 STEM and robotics programs throughout the State; and generally relating to ~~the~~  
9 ~~Public Schools STEM and Robotics Program Task Force~~ extracurricular STEM and  
10 robotics programs.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
12 That:

13 (a) ~~There is a Public Schools Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics~~  
14 ~~(STEM) and Robotics Program Task Force.~~

15 (b) ~~The Task Force consists of the following members:~~

16 (1) ~~two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of~~  
17 ~~the Senate;~~

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ~~(2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of~~  
2 ~~the House;~~

3 ~~(3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's~~  
4 ~~designee;~~

5 ~~(4) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;~~

6 ~~(5) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;~~

7 ~~(6) three representatives from local school systems, appointed by the State~~  
8 ~~Superintendent of Schools or the State Superintendent's designee; and~~

9 ~~(7) three representatives of nonprofit organizations that provide STEM~~  
10 ~~and robotics services in the State, appointed by the Governor.~~

11 ~~(e) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.~~

12 ~~(d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.~~

13 ~~(e) A member of the Task Force:~~

14 ~~(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but~~

15 ~~(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State~~  
16 ~~Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.~~

17 ~~(f) The Task Force shall:~~

18 ~~(1) collect information regarding existing STEM and robotics programs in~~  
19 ~~public schools in the State and in other states, including:~~

20 ~~(i) a description of each program;~~

21 ~~(ii) requirements for the administration of each program;~~

22 ~~(iii) the funding amount and source of funding for each program; and~~

23 ~~(iv) the impact on revenues and expenditures in the State and other~~  
24 ~~applicable states;~~

25 ~~(2) study:~~

26 ~~(i) the feasibility of implementing competitive STEM and robotics~~  
27 ~~programs in public schools throughout the State; and~~

1 ~~(ii) approaches and resources needed to implement competitive~~  
2 ~~STEM and robotics programs in public schools throughout the State; and~~

3 ~~(3) make recommendations on establishing competitive robotics programs~~  
4 ~~as varsity sports in every public high school throughout the State.~~

5 ~~(g) On or before December 15, 2026, the Task Force shall report its findings and~~  
6 ~~recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Committee~~  
7 ~~on Education, Energy, and the Environment, the House Appropriations Committee, the~~  
8 ~~House Ways and Means Committee, and the General Assembly, in accordance with §~~  
9 ~~2-1257 of the State Government Article.~~

10 (a) The State Department of Education shall study the existing Science,  
11 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and robotics extracurricular programs  
12 currently in place in high schools throughout the State.

13 (b) (1) In the course of its study, the Department shall examine:

14 (i) the requirements for administering existing programs;

15 (ii) the requirements for participation in existing programs;

16 (iii) funding sources for existing programs; and

17 (iv) impediments to establishing a STEM or robotics extracurricular  
18 program in a school.

19 (2) In conducting its study, the Department shall, to the extent practicable,  
20 make use of available data.

21 (c) The Department shall make recommendations on the feasibility of:

22 (1) adopting a uniform set of standards governing the operation and  
23 funding of extracurricular STEM and robotics programs throughout the State;

24 (2) establishing a competitive extracurricular STEM or robotics program  
25 in every public school in the State; and

26 (3) creating a competitive robotics program as a varsity sport in public high  
27 schools throughout the State.

28 (d) On or before January 1, 2027, the Department shall report on the results of  
29 its study and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of  
30 the State Government Article.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
32 1, 2026. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2027, this~~

**HOUSE BILL 531**

1 ~~Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no~~  
2 ~~further force and effect.~~

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.