



HOUSE BILL 259: 2023 Appropriations Act, Sec. 7.23: After-School Robotics Grant Program

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: Sec. 7.23 of S.L. 2023-134

Date: December 1, 2023
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Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Section 7.23 of S.L. 2023-134 establishes the Educational and Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Program (Program) to promote after-school programs for robotics education and competition and to motivate students to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). All public school units (PSUs) are eligible to apply to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for a grant to develop an educational and competitive after school robotics program with a robotics partner. A robotics partner is a third party entity that is approved by DPI as meeting certain criteria demonstrating that adequate support will be provided.

DPI must develop and publish criteria, guidelines, and required documentation to be submitted to apply for the Program in the upcoming school year, including evidence of a robotics partner relationship and a proposed budget on the following schedule:

- Criteria must be published by November 1, 2023, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and August 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- Applications must be accepted until December 31, 2023, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and September 30, 2024, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- Grants must be awarded to selected applicants by January 31, 2024, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and October 31, 2024, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Grants can be used to establish a relationship with a robotics partner, purchase robotics kits, provide coaching stipends, make league participation payments, or pay administrative fees for the robotics team.

DPI must report by February 15, 2024, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and October 15, 2024, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on information about grant awards, including which PSUs received grants, which PSUs applied but were not awarded grants, and any measurable improvement in student academic performance.

This section became effective July 1, 2023.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



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Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578