DIGEST

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Smith HCR No. 136

Urges and requests the Department of Economic Development to encourage new and existing Louisiana companies to create strategies aimed to increase the number of women employed in STEM positions.

Explains the most recent trends in wage disparities between women and men across the nation and in the state of Louisiana.

Explains the meaning of STEM and its economic impact across the nation and our state relative to the wage disparity between women and men.

Encourages companies relocating to Louisiana to show their commitment to women in STEM by encouraging the diversity of their current staff and by working with educational systems in Louisiana to promote women in STEM positions.

Urges the state to continue encouraging Louisiana firms offering STEM-related jobs to make these jobs known to students and graduates through technological portals.

Encourages the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus, the Office on Women's Policy, the Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Board of Regents, and Louisiana Economic Development to collectively commit to seeing an increase in the number of women studying and working in STEM disciplines by crafting recruitment strategies highlighting STEM positions as open and available to women.