

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**H. B. No. 577**

**Representatives Fraizer, Holmes**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Carfagna, Gross, Miller, K., Plummer, Ray,  
Richardson, Young, T., Loychik**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 3365.131 and 3365.132 of the 1  
Revised Code to establish the Ohio STEM Gateway 2  
Program under the College Credit Plus Program, 3  
to establish the Ohio STEM Retention Program and 4  
the Ohio IT Promise, and to make an 5  
appropriation. 6

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 3365.131 and 3365.132 of the 7  
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 3365.131.** (A) The Ohio STEM gateway program is hereby 9  
established under the college credit plus program. 10

(1) Under the gateway program, each public secondary 11  
school shall enter into an agreement with at least one public 12  
college and jointly develop thirty-credit hour pathways in 13  
science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health care 14  
fields. Schools may use existing pathways developed under 15  
section 3365.13 of the Revised Code for the purposes of this 16  
section. 17

(2) Each college shall award a one-year technical certificate in the appropriate field of study to each student who completes a pathway developed under division (A)(1) of this section. 18  
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(B)(1) The Ohio STEM retention program is hereby established. Under the retention program, each student who completes a pathway developed under division (A) of this section and subsequently enrolls in a public college in a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or health care associate's or baccalaureate degree program or certification program approved by the chancellor of higher education shall be eligible for an annual tuition waiver of two thousand dollars for up to three academic years. 22  
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(2) Each public college that enrolls a student to which division (B)(1) of this section applies shall report to the chancellor, by the first day of July of each year, the number of students who were so enrolled during the preceding year. The chancellor shall then calculate the total amount for and provide a grant to each college for that amount. 31  
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(C) The chancellor shall adopt rules to administer the program established under division (B) of this section. 37  
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**Sec. 3365.132.** (A) The Ohio IT promise program is hereby established. Under the program, an individual is eligible for up to four thousand dollars in student loan forgiveness if the individual satisfies all of the following: 39  
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(1) Participates in the Ohio STEM retention program under section 3365.131 of the Revised Code; 43  
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(2) Graduates with a certificate approved by the chancellor of higher education, associate's degree, or 45  
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baccalaureate degree in a science, technology, engineering, 47  
mathematics, or health care field; 48

(3) Maintains continuous residence in this state for five 49  
years after graduating. 50

(B) The chancellor shall adopt rules to administer the 51  
Ohio IT promise program. 52

**Section 2.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 53  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 54  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 55  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 56  
2022 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2023. 57  
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 58  
any other operating appropriations made for the FY 2022-FY 2023 59  
biennium. 60

**Section 3.** 61

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A	BOR DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION				
B	Dedicated Purpose Fund Group				
C	5CV3	2356A1	Ohio STEM Retention Program	\$75,000,000	\$0
D	5CV3	2356A2	Ohio IT Promise	\$100,000,000	\$0
E	TOTAL DPF Dedicated Purpose Fund Group			\$175,000,000	\$0
F	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$175,000,000	\$0

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OHIO STEM RETENTION PROGRAM 63

The foregoing appropriation item 2356A1, Ohio STEM 64  
Retention Program, shall be used by the Chancellor of Higher 65  
Education to reimburse public colleges, as defined in section 66  
3365.01 of the Revised Code, pursuant to section 3365.131 of the 67  
Revised Code. 68

An amount equal to the unexpended, unencumbered balance of 69  
the foregoing appropriation item 2356A1, Ohio STEM Retention 70  
Program, at the end of fiscal year 2022 is hereby reappropriated 71  
for the same purpose in fiscal year 2023. 72

OHIO IT PROMISE 73

The foregoing appropriation item 2356A2, Ohio IT Promise, 74  
shall be used by the Chancellor of Higher Education pursuant to 75  
section 3365.132 of the Revised Code. 76

An amount equal to the unexpended, unencumbered balance of 77  
the foregoing appropriation item 2356A2, Ohio IT Promise, at the 78  
end of fiscal year 2022 is hereby reappropriated for the same 79  
purpose in fiscal year 2023. 80

**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 81  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 82  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 83  
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 84  
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 85  
from operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 86  
accounted for as though made in H.B. 110 of the 134th General 87  
Assembly. The operating appropriations made in this act are 88  
subject to all provisions of H.B. 110 of the 134th General 89  
Assembly that are generally applicable to such appropriations. 90