BIL 55-65

INTRODUCED BY: Iftekhar
SECONDED BY: She

A BILL TO: Advocate for classifying the Bachelor of Science in Economics degree at MSU as a STEM major

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, The Bachelor of Science degree in Economics at MSU has a federal CIP code designation which classifies it as a non-STEM degree by the United States Department of Homeland Security; and,

WHEREAS, The Economics (BS) major at MSU has become increasingly specialized, quantitative and analytical in nature, placing significant emphasis on formal mathematical analyses and coursework as compared to its Bachelor of Arts counterpart, in order to better prepare students to carry out academic-style research; and,

WHEREAS, This means that the major is sufficiently qualified for a change in its CIP code to that of a STEM Economics degree which would be a more accurate classification for the major and better reflect the intensive work students in the program complete; and,

WHEREAS, International students who choose to major in a non-STEM degree are only eligible for 12 months of Optional Practical Training (OPT) after graduation, while STEM majors are able to receive an extension of 24 months for a total of 36 months, allowing them to work in the U.S. for a longer period of time after graduation without an H-1B work-visa sponsorship; and,

WHEREAS, International students who are not able to find a work-visa sponsorship from a company within the 12-month time limit are forced to leave the country; and,

WHEREAS, Graduating with a STEM degree allows international students to be more competitive for career opportunities because they have more time to network, find and apply to companies who will sponsor them, as well as try their luck in the annual lottery for the limited number of H-1B skilled worker visas; and,

1https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/immigration1/visa-immigration/workintheus/
WHEREAS, The number of international students coming to MSU and the U.S. has been on a readily sharp decline in recent years, partly due to stricter H1-B regulation discussions by the current U.S. administration, as revealed by the National Science Foundation after an analysis of federal data; and,

WHEREAS, Classifying the Economics (BS) major at MSU as a STEM degree would make it highly lucrative for international students and attract more applications from them as they will have a much better chance at successfully launching their career in the U.S. once they graduate; and,

WHEREAS, Taking into account that international students are vital to the MSU community due to the cultural diversity and richness they bring, it is critical that the University brings into effect immediate measures to reverse the falling trend in the international student population on campus; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University will advocate for classifying the Bachelor of Science in Economics degree at Michigan State University as a STEM major.