
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST

SB 190 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Hewitt

Proposed law provides for legislative findings and intent relative to a computer science education action plan.

Proposed law establishes a Computer Science Education Advisory Commission (commission) to provide recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), through the state Department of Education (DOE), for the development and implementation of the state action plan. Proposed law provides that the members shall serve without compensation, except for per diem or expense reimbursement as provided by their constituent organizations.

Proposed law requires the state superintendent of education to call the first meeting of the advisory commission no later than August 15, 2022. Proposed law terminates the advisory commission on December 1, 2024, unless BESE provides for the continued existence of the advisory commission through board rules and procedures.

Proposed law provides that the DOE shall provide staff support for the advisory commission.

Proposed law provides for the advisory commission to work with:

- (1) Public elementary and secondary education administrators and teachers to identify the gaps between computer science education services currently provided and those needed in both the near- and long-term and possible reasons for such gaps.
- (2) Faculty members of teacher education programs at postsecondary education institutions and the Board of Regents to identify:
 - (a) Computer science teacher education competencies.
 - (b) Acceptable approaches for current classroom teachers to develop the competencies for teaching computer science.
 - (c) Any need to create professional development programs to assist current teachers in developing needed competencies.
 - (d) Methods to recruit and retain computer science teachers.
- (3) Business leaders and postsecondary education institutions to identify computer science workforce needs and skills needed to succeed in postsecondary computer science programs.

Proposed law requires the advisory commission to provide a report to BESE by Dec. 1, 2023, on recommendations and items to be addressed in a statewide computer science plan.

Proposed law provides the report shall, at a minimum, address the following items:

- (1) State content standards in computer science for grades kindergarten through twelve.
- (2) Coordination of computer science education among elementary and secondary schools, postsecondary education institutions, and the workforce.
- (3) Any computer science requirements for high school graduation, postsecondary entrance, and eligibility for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students.
- (4) Standardized computer science teacher training, including certification requirements, preservice training programs, and professional development activities.
- (5) Technical assistance grants to public school systems for the creation and expansion of computer science courses.
- (6) Funding strategies for computer science teacher training and expansion of computer science courses offered in public schools.

Proposed law requires BESE, upon recommendations of the advisory commission and DOE, to develop and approve a state action plan for computer science education for kindergarten through grade twelve.

Proposed law requires the state action plan to provide for a comprehensive, integrated plan that include instructional strategies, guidelines, content standards, and teacher development.

Proposed law provides for a grant program to award grants annually to public schools and public school teachers to assist in the expansion of computer science courses in public schools. Allows the grants to be used for teacher professional development programs, teacher salary supplements, and course expansion.

Proposed law requires DOE to function as a computer science education clearinghouse. In this role, the DOE shall review and recommend computer science education resources, maintain a listing of professional development courses available for computer science education; and create computer science educational resources.

Proposed law requires the state action plan established to be implemented upon the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:187.1-187.7 and R.S. 36:651(F)(7))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Makes technical corrections.
2. Adds four additional members to the advisory commission.