

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE MORENO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to allow computer science courses to count as science credit for purposes of satisfying high school graduation requirements and to establish and implement a state plan for making computer science a fundamental part of the state's public education system.

WHEREAS, research and data from numerous sources, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the College Board, Code.org, and the National Center for Education Statistics, show that computer science drives job growth and innovation throughout the economy and that occupations in the computer science field make up two-thirds of all projected new jobs in the areas of science, technology, education, and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly forty percent growth is projected from 2012 to 2022 in the "computer systems design and related services" industry resulting in over two million jobs in 2022; and

WHEREAS, such research and data also reveal that sixty-seven percent of parents and fifty-six percent of teachers believe that students should be required to learn computer science, yet less than half of schools in the United States offer computer science courses; and

WHEREAS, despite the overwhelming need to produce more graduates with the credentials and experience needed in computer science fields, the Southern Regional Education Board reports that only three states – Arkansas, Texas, and West Virginia – require all high schools to offer computer science, and no state requires students to take computer science to graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS, although Louisiana does allow computer science courses to satisfy graduation requirements in mathematics and for a high school diploma endorsement, it does not allow a student to fulfill a science credit for high school graduation by completing a computer science course; and

WHEREAS, allowing computer science courses to count as science credit for graduation and establishing and implementing a broad policy framework to provide students in kindergarten through grade twelve with access to computer science courses is necessary and crucial in helping students to become informed citizens and to better understand the role of computing in the world today.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to allow computer science courses to count as science credit for purposes of satisfying high school graduation requirements and to establish and implement a state plan that articulates the goals for computer science, strategies for accomplishing such goals, and time lines for implementing the strategies in order to make computer science a fundamental part of the state's public education system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE