

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 190

BY SENATOR HEWITT

TEACHERS. Establishes the Computer Science Education Act. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact Subpart A-3 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:187.1 through 187.7, and R.S. 36:651(F)(7), relative to computer science education; to provide for the legislative findings and intent; to provide for the development of a statewide computer science education program; to create the Computer Science Education Advisory Commission; to provide for its membership, compensation, and duties; to provide for a grant program; to provide for a computer science education clearinghouse; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Subpart A-3 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:187.1 through 187.7, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART A-3. COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

§187.1. Short title

This Subpart shall be known as the "Computer Science Education Act".

§187.2. Computer science education; legislative findings; intent

1 **A. The legislature finds the following:**

2 **(1) Computer science is a transforming industry that bolsters**
3 **productivity, drives innovation, and creates commerce.**

4 **(2) Knowledge of computer science and the use of technology is essential**
5 **for all individuals, not just those working or planning to work in the technology**
6 **sector.**

7 **(3) Cross-curricular instruction at all grade levels in computer science**
8 **will enhance student achievement in core subjects, increase student motivation**
9 **for learning, and develop a skilled workforce.**

10 **(4) Positions related to computer science are some of the fastest-growing**
11 **in the global economy, yet many of those positions remain unfilled. In order to**
12 **fill those positions, a comprehensive computer science education strategy needs**
13 **to be integrated into the elementary and secondary grades that flows seamlessly**
14 **into careers and postsecondary education pathways.**

15 **(5) In Louisiana, the fastest growing industry is Professional, Scientific,**
16 **and Technical Services which is composed of much of the tech industry.**
17 **Software developer and network administrator are among the ten fastest-**
18 **growing occupations in the state requiring a college education. Yet the state is**
19 **producing fewer than half of the graduates needed to fill computer science-**
20 **related jobs.**

21 **(6) Successful completion of rigorous postsecondary computer science**
22 **programs requires a thorough foundation at the elementary and secondary**
23 **education level.**

24 **(7) It is in the public interest that a comprehensive computer science**
25 **education initiative be undertaken to ensure Louisiana has citizens who have the**
26 **expertise to perform the technology skills embedded in most professions, who**
27 **can meet the ever-increasing workforce demands in the technology sector, and**
28 **who can envision and grow the next generation of technological advances.**

29 **(8) In order to fulfill the need for a comprehensive computer science**

1 education, more teachers need to be trained to teach computer science and all
2 schools need to offer computer science courses.

3 B. It is the intent of the legislature to create a comprehensive statewide
4 computer science education program that benefits all citizens, flows seamlessly
5 between all levels of education, and meets the needs of a dynamic and
6 competitive economy.

7 §187.3. Computer Science Education Advisory Commission; establishment,
8 members, purpose

9 A.(1) The Computer Science Education Advisory Commission, referred
10 to in this Chapter as the "advisory commission", is established to provide
11 recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
12 through the state Department of Education for the development and
13 implementation of a state action plan for the delivery of education in computer
14 science in all public schools.

15 (2) The advisory commission shall be composed of the following
16 members:

17 (a) One member appointed by the governor.

18 (b) One member appointed by the president of the Senate.

19 (c) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of
20 Representatives.

21 (d) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.

22 (e) A member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
23 Education, appointed by the board president.

24 (f) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.

25 (g) A member of the Board of Regents, appointed by the board president.

26 (h) The executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student and
27 Financial Assistance, or his designee.

28 (i) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College
29 System, or his designee.

1 (j) The president of the Louisiana State University System, or his
2 designee.

3 (k) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.

4 (l) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.

5 (m) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his
6 designee.

7 (n) The secretary of the Louisiana Economic Development, or his
8 designee.

9 (o) A computer science professor, appointed by the commissioner of
10 higher education.

11 (p) A public high school computer science teacher appointed by the
12 president of the Louisiana Chapter of Computer Science Teachers Association.

13 (q) A public middle school computer science teacher appointed by the
14 president of the Louisiana Chapter of Computer Science Teachers Association.

15 (r) A public elementary school computer science teacher appointed by
16 the president of the Louisiana Chapter of Computer Science Teachers
17 Association.

18 (s) A superintendent of a public school system, appointed by the
19 Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

20 (3) The members shall serve without compensation, except for per diem
21 or reimbursement of expenses to which they may be entitled as members of the
22 constituent organizations.

23 (4) The state superintendent of education shall call an organizational
24 meeting of the advisory commission by August 15, 2022. The advisory
25 commission shall elect a chairman, and any other officers deemed necessary,
26 from among the membership at such meeting. Thereafter, the advisory
27 commission shall meet upon call of the chairman.

28 (5) A majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the
29 advisory commission, and any official action taken by the advisory commission

1 shall require an affirmative vote of the majority of the quorum present and
2 voting.

3 (6) The state Department of Education shall provide staff support for the
4 advisory commission.

5 (7) The advisory commission shall cease to exist on December 1, 2024,
6 unless the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education provides for the
7 continued existence of the advisory commission through the board's rules and
8 procedures. The board shall inform the Louisiana Law Institute of termination
9 or continuation of the advisory commission.

10 B. The commission shall work with:

11 (1) Public elementary and secondary education administrators and
12 teachers to identify the gaps between computer science education services
13 currently provided and those needed in both the near- and long-term and
14 possible reasons for such gaps.

15 (2) Faculty members in teacher education programs at postsecondary
16 education institutions and current computer science teachers to identify:

17 (a) Appropriate computer science education teacher competencies.

18 (b) Acceptable approaches for current classroom teachers to develop the
19 competencies.

20 (c) Whether there is a need to create professional development programs
21 to assist current teachers in developing needed computer science education
22 competencies.

23 (d) Methods to recruit and retain computer science teachers.

24 (3) Business leaders and postsecondary education institutions to identify
25 computer science workforce needs and the skills postsecondary students need
26 to successfully navigate postsecondary computer science programs.

27 C. By December 1, 2023, the advisory commission shall provide a report
28 to the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on
29 recommendations and items to be addressed in a statewide plan for computer

1 science. At a minimum, the report shall address the following items:

2 (1) State content standards in computer science for grades kindergarten
3 through twelve.

4 (2) Coordination of computer science education between elementary and
5 secondary schools, postsecondary education institutions, and the workforce.

6 (3) Any computer science requirements for high school graduation,
7 postsecondary entrance, and eligibility for the Taylor Opportunity Program for
8 Students.

9 (4) Standardized computer science teacher training, including
10 certification requirements, preservice training programs, and professional
11 development activities.

12 (5) Needed technical assistance grants to public school systems for the
13 creation and expansion of computer science courses.

14 (6) Funding strategies for computer science teacher training and
15 expansion of computer science courses offered in public schools.

16 §187.4. State action plan for computer science education

17 The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon
18 recommendations of the Computer Science Advisory Commission and the state
19 Department of Education, shall develop and approve a state action plan for
20 computer science education for kindergarten through grade twelve. The state
21 action plan shall provide for a comprehensive, integrated plan for providing
22 computer science education in Louisiana public schools. The plan shall address
23 instructional strategies, guidelines, content standards, and teacher development.

24 §187.5. Grant program

25 A.(1) The state department of education shall establish a program for the
26 award of grants annually to public schools and public school teachers to assist
27 in the creation and expansion of computer science courses in public schools.

28 (2) The grants may be used for teacher professional development
29 programs, teacher salary supplements, course expansion, and for any other

purposes approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

B. The state department of education shall:

(1) Identify providers of high quality teacher development programs in computer science.

(2) Identify funding sources for the grant program.

(3) Implement a process to solicit and award grants.

(4) Adopt rules establishing the specific criteria and guidelines for the grant program.

§187.6. Computer science education clearinghouse

The state Department of Education shall function as a computer science education clearinghouse. The department shall review and recommend computer science education resources, maintain a listing of professional development courses available for computer science education, and create appropriate computer science educational resources.

§187.7. Funding

The state action plan established pursuant to this Subpart shall be implemented upon the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

Section 2. R.S. 36:651(F)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of Education

* * *

F. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within the Department of Education as provided in R.S. 36:901 et seq.:

* * *

(7) The Computer Science Education Advisory Commission (R.S. 17:187.3).

* * *

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

1 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 2 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 3 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 4 effective on the day following such approval.

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

DIGEST

SB 190 Original 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 needed skills to have success 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 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 high 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))