2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 190

BY SENATOR HEWITT

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

1   AN ACT

2   To enact Subpart A-3 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes

3   of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:187.1 through 187.5, and R.S. 36:651(F)(7),

4   relative to computer science education; to provide for legislative findings and intent;

5   to provide for the development of a statewide computer science education program;

6   to create the Computer Science Education Advisory Commission; to provide for its

7   membership, compensation, and duties; and to provide for related matters.

8   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9   Section 1. Subpart A-3 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised

10   Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:187.1 through 187.5, is hereby enacted to read as

11   follows:

12   **SUBPART A-3. COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION**

13   **§187.1. Short title**

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

15   **§187.2. Computer science education; legislative findings; intent**

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

17   **(1) Computer science is a transforming industry that bolsters**

1   **productivity, drives innovation, and creates commerce.**

2   **(2) Knowledge of computer science and the use of technology is essential**

3   **for all individuals, not just those working or planning to work in the technology**

4   **sector.**

5   **(3) Cross-curricular instruction at all grade levels in computer science**

6   **will enhance student achievement in core subjects, increase student motivation**

7   **for learning, and develop a skilled workforce.**

8   **(4) Positions related to computer science are some of the fastest-growing**

9   **in the global economy, yet many of those positions remain unfilled. In order to**

10   **fill those positions, a comprehensive computer science education strategy needs**

11   **to be integrated into the elementary and secondary grades that flows seamlessly**

12   **into careers and postsecondary education pathways.**

13   **(5) In Louisiana, the fastest growing industry is Professional, Scientific,**

14   **and Technical Services which is composed of much of the tech industry.**

15   **Software developers and network administrators are among the ten fastest-**

16   **growing occupations in the state requiring a college education, yet the state is**

17   **producing fewer than half of the graduates needed to fill computer science-**

18   **related jobs.**

19   **(6) Successful completion of rigorous postsecondary computer science**

20   **programs requires a thorough foundation at the elementary and secondary**

21   **education level.**

22   **(7) It is in the public interest that a comprehensive computer science**

23   **education initiative be undertaken to ensure Louisiana has citizens who have the**

24   **expertise to perform the technology skills embedded in most professions, who**

25   **can meet the ever-increasing workforce demands in the technology sector, and**

26   **who can envision and grow the next generation of technological advances.**

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

28   **education, more teachers need to be trained to teach computer science and all**

29   **schools need to offer computer science courses.**

1   **B. It is the intent of the legislature to create a comprehensive statewide**

2   **computer science education program that benefits all citizens, flows seamlessly**

3   **between all levels of education, and meets the needs of a dynamic and**

4   **competitive economy.**

5   **§187.3. Computer Science Education Advisory Commission; establishment,**

6   **members, purpose**

7   **A.(1) The Computer Science Education Advisory Commission, referred**

8   **to in this Chapter as the "advisory commission", is established to provide**

9   **recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

10   **through the state Department of Education for the development and**

11   **implementation of a state action plan for the delivery of education in computer**

12   **science in all public schools.**

13   **(2) The advisory commission shall be composed of the following**

14   **members:**

15   **(a) One member appointed by the governor.**

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

17   **(c) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of**

18   **Representatives.**

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

20   **(e) A member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary**

21   **Education, appointed by the board president.**

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

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

24   **(h) The executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student and**

25   **Financial Assistance, or his designee.**

26   **(i) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College**

27   **System, or his designee.**

28   **(j) The president of the Louisiana State University System, or his**

29   **designee.**

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

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

3   **(m) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his**

4   **designee.**

5   **(n) The secretary of the Louisiana Economic Development, or his**

6   **designee.**

7   **(o) A computer science professor appointed by the commissioner of**

8   **higher education.**

9   **(p) A public high school computer science teacher appointed by the**

10   **president of the Louisiana Chapter of Computer Science Teachers Association.**

11   **(q) A public middle school computer science teacher appointed by the**

12   **president of the Louisiana Chapter of Computer Science Teachers Association.**

13   **(r) A public elementary school computer science teacher appointed by**

14   **the president of the Louisiana Chapter of Computer Science Teachers**

15   **Association.**

16   **(s) A superintendent of a public school system appointed by the**

17   **Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.**

18   **(t) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter**

19   **Schools, or his designee.**

20   **(u) The executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association,**

21   **or his designee.**

22   **(v) The chairmen of the Senate and House committees on education, or**

23   **their designees.**

24   **(3) The members shall serve without compensation, except for per diem**

25   **or reimbursement of expenses to which they may be entitled as members of the**

26   **constituent organizations.**

27   **(4) The state superintendent of education shall call an organizational**

28   **meeting of the advisory commission by August 15, 2022. The advisory**

29   **commission shall elect a chairman and any other officers deemed necessary**

1   **from among the membership at such meeting. Thereafter, the advisory**

2   **commission shall meet upon call of the chairman.**

3   **(5) A majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the**

4   **advisory commission, and any official action taken by the advisory commission**

5   **shall require an affirmative vote of the majority of the quorum present and**

6   **voting.**

7   **(6) The state Department of Education shall provide staff support for the**

8   **advisory commission.**

9   **(7) The advisory commission shall cease to exist on December 1, 2024,**

10   **unless the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education provides for the**

11   **continued existence of the advisory commission through the board's rules and**

12   **procedures. The board shall inform the Louisiana Law Institute of termination**

13   **or continuation of the advisory commission.**

14   **B. The commission shall work with:**

15   **(1) Public elementary and secondary education administrators and**

16   **teachers to identify the gaps between computer science education services**

17   **currently provided and those needed in both the near- and long-term and**

18   **possible reasons for such gaps.**

19   **(2) Faculty members in teacher education programs at postsecondary**

20   **education institutions and current computer science teachers to identify:**

21   **(a) Appropriate computer science education teacher competencies.**

22   **(b) Acceptable approaches for current classroom teachers to develop the**

23   **competencies.**

24   **(c) Whether there is a need to create professional development programs**

25   **to assist current teachers in developing needed computer science education**

26   **competencies.**

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

28   **(3) Business leaders and postsecondary education institutions to identify**

29   **computer science workforce needs and the skills postsecondary students need**

1   **to successfully navigate postsecondary computer science programs.**

2   **C. By December 1, 2023, the advisory commission shall provide a report**

3   **to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on**

4   **recommendations and items to be addressed in a statewide plan for computer**

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

6   **(1) State content standards in computer science for grades kindergarten**

7   **through twelve.**

8   **(2) Coordination of computer science education between elementary and**

9   **secondary schools, postsecondary education institutions, and the workforce.**

10   **(3) Any computer science requirements for high school graduation,**

11   **postsecondary entrance, and eligibility for the Taylor Opportunity Program for**

12   **Students.**

13   **(4) Standardized computer science teacher training, including**

14   **certification requirements, preservice training programs, and professional**

15   **development activities.**

16   **(5) Technical assistance grants to public schools needed for the creation**

17   **and expansion of computer science courses.**

18   **(6) Funding strategies for computer science teacher training and**

19   **expansion of computer science courses offered in public schools.**

20   **§187.4. State action plan for computer science education**

21   **The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon**

22   **recommendations of the Computer Science Advisory Commission and the state**

23   **Department of Education, shall develop and approve a state action plan for**

24   **computer science education for kindergarten through grade twelve. The state**

25   **action plan shall provide for a comprehensive, integrated plan for providing**

26   **computer science education in Louisiana public schools. The plan shall address**

27   **instructional strategies, guidelines, content standards, and teacher development.**

28   **Upon its approval, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

29   **shall submit the action plan to the Legislature for its review.**

1   **§187.5. Funding**

2   **The state action plan established pursuant to this Subpart shall be**

3   **implemented upon the appropriation of funds for this purpose.**

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

5   §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of

6   Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of

7   Education

8   *   *   *

9   F. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within the

10   Department of Education as provided in R.S. 36:901 et seq.:

11   *   *   *

12   **(7) The Computer Science Education Advisory Commission (R.S.**

13   **17:187.3).**

14   *   *   *

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

16   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

17   by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

18   vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become

19   effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST
SB 190 Reengrossed   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 requires BESE to submit the approved action plan to the Legislature for its

review.

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

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. 17:187.1-187.5 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.

      Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

      1.   Requires the action plan to be submitted to the legislature for review.

      2.   Deletes the establishments of the grant program and computer science education clearinghouse.

      3.   Makes technical corrections.