New law establishes a Computer Science Education Advisory 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 a computer science state action plan.

New law requires the state superintendent of education to call the first meeting of the advisory commission no later than August 15, 2022.

New 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.

New 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.

New 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.

New 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.

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

New law requires BESE to submit the approved action plan to the Legislature for its review.

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

Effective June 17, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 17:187.1-187.5 and R.S. 36:651(F)(7))