
DIGEST

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HB 264 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Hughes

Abstract: Requires students to successfully complete a one unit Computer Science course to graduate from high school and to qualify for TOPS.

Proposed law requires completion of a one unit Computer Science course for:

- (1) Graduation from a public high school.
- (2) A high school career diploma. Present law requires a student to complete one mathematics elective course, one science elective course, and nine credits in Jump Start courses to be eligible for a career diploma. Proposed law requires that one of these credits be Computer Science.
- (3) A TOPS award. Present law requires a student to complete one mathematics elective course, two science elective courses, and two units in either Foreign Language or Computer Science to be eligible for a TOPS award.

Proposed law requires that one of these credits be Computer Science for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

Proposed law further changes requirement from two units in either Foreign Language or Computer Science to two units in either subject *or* one unit of each subject for students graduating in the 2028-2029 school year and thereafter.

- (4) A TOPS-Tech award. Present law requires a student to complete one mathematics elective course, one science elective course, and nine credits in Jump Start courses to be eligible for a TOPS-Tech award. Proposed law requires that one of these credits be Computer Science.

Present law and proposed law, relative to students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year, requires successful completion of either.

Proposed law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to promulgate rules to implement offering Computer Science courses.

Proposed law requires teacher preparation programs to include instruction on teaching students computer science and authorizes such instruction to be incorporated into an existing course of study.

Implementation required in part beginning with the 2026-2027 school year; in part beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f), 5025(2)(b), (3)(c), (5), and (8), and 5026(A)(2)(c), (3)(b), and (5); Adds R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9), 280.3, 3996(B)(82), 5025(9), 5025.7, and 5026(F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Authorize teacher prep instruction on teaching students computer science to be incorporated into an existing course of study.
2. Regarding qualifying for a TOPS Award, add an option for one unit of a foreign language and one unit of computer science, rather than requiring two units of either one.
3. Delay implementation of requirement that public high schools provide computer science instruction until the 2026-2027 school year.
4. Require the state Dept. of Education to approve the computer science courses offered to public school students.