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## DIGEST

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HB 372 Original

2025 Regular Session

Hughes

**Abstract:** Provides relative to computer science as a requirement for high school graduation.

Relative to the requirement of completion of a one unit Computer Science course for:

- (1) Graduation from a public high school, including charter schools. Present law applies to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter. Proposed law (R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1)) changes this requirement to apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2027-2028 school year and thereafter.
- (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. Further requires that one of these 11 credits be Computer Science for students who enter the ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter. Proposed law (R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(f)) changes this requirement to apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2027-2028 school year and thereafter.
- (3) A TOPS award. Present law (R.S. 17:5025) 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. Further requires that one of these five credits be Computer Science for students graduating in the 2028-2029 school year and thereafter. Proposed law changes this requirement to apply to students who graduate during the 2030-2031 school year and thereafter.
- (4) A TOPS-Tech award. Present law (R.S. 17:5026(A)) 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. Further requires that one of these 11 credits be Computer Science for students graduating in the 2028-2029 school year and thereafter. Proposed law changes this requirement to apply to students who graduate during the 2030-2031 school year and thereafter.

Present law requires each public school, including charter schools, to provide instruction in computer science as follows:

- (1) Elementary school: prior to the 2027-2028 school year.
- (2) Middle school: prior to the 2026-2027 school year.

(3) High school: prior to the 2026-2027 school year.

Proposed law (R.S. 17:280.3) changes the timing of this requirement to the beginning of such school years.

(Amends R.S. 17:5025.7(intro. para.) and 5026(F)(intro. para); Repeals Section 6(A) and (D) of Act No. 211 of the 2024 R.S.)