



BILL SUMMARY

Computer Science Classes Requirements and Advisory Council HF 2324

February 24, 2016

Status of Bill: House Floor
Committee: Education (13-8)
Lead Democrats: Representative Gaines
Floor Manager: Representative Forristall
Research Analyst: David Epley 515-281-6367
david.epley@legis.iowa.gov

Bill Summary

Computer Science Advisory Council

The bill requires the Director of the Department of Education (DE) to convene a computer science advisory council. They would be charged with making recommendations regarding the requirement that each accredited high school offer at least one high-quality computer science course, and 7th and 8th grade classes include one unit of coding by the school year beginning July 1, 2018 (2018-19 school year). The council is required to make its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1, 2016. The recommendations are to include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. Standards for one or more high-quality computer science courses, with one or more models for such courses to be developed by DE by July 1, 2017.
- B. A recommendation as to whether one or more such high-quality computer science courses could be integrated into a career and technical education pathway.
- C. A recommendation as to how one or more such high-quality computer science courses could satisfy the high school graduation requirement for mathematics.
- D. Provide multiple settings for the delivery of high-quality high school computer science courses, including traditional high school classes, concurrent enrollment classes, and online learning classes that include the opportunity for students to collaborate within a classroom setting.
- E. Guidelines for creating a kindergarten through grade twelve career pathway in computer science, with an appropriate scope and sequence for high-quality computer science instruction, which would include a unit on coding in seventh or eighth grade to be required by the school year beginning on July 1, 2018.
- F. Licensure and professional development requirements to ensure that teachers are prepared for and supported in the delivery of high-quality computer science courses.

Changes to Minimum Educational Standards

HF 2324 adds one unit of high-quality computer science education to the minimum educational program that would be offered and taught for grades 9 through 12. It also requires that the technology education component of the minimum educational program offered and taught for grades 7 and 8 include one unit on computer coding. These requirements would apply to school years beginning on or after July 1, 2018 (2018-19 school year).

The bill may include a state mandate and the bill makes inapplicable Code section 25B.2, subsection 3, which would relieve a political subdivision (meaning a city, county, township, or school district) from complying with a state mandate if funding for the cost of the state mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore, political subdivisions are required in the bill to comply with any state mandate included in the bill.