

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24243

This bill provides for computer science instruction in public schools.

This bill defines terms, creates the computer science initiative for public schools, requires the STEM Action Center Board, the State Board of Education, and the State Department of Education to collaborate to develop and implement the initiative by:

- Adopting computer science learning standards developed by a nationally-recognized computer science education organization;
- Maintaining, using and enhancing access to an online portal or repository of instructional resources;
- Providing for professional development on teaching computer science;
- Evaluating providers of computer science instructional software solutions;
- Communicating and supporting computer science initiatives;
- Distributing grants to school districts and charter schools to provide incentives for teachers to pursue training in computer science or earn a computer science endorsement;
- Collaborating to create technical postsecondary courses of study in areas related to computer science which meet workforce needs; and
- Requiring the STEM Action Center and the State Board of Education to annually report on the initiative to the legislature's education committees.

FISCAL NOTE

\$94,300 in FY 2017 General Fund Appropriations to the STEM Action Center to cover salary, benefits and operation costs for this initiative. Ongoing salary and benefits total \$81,800; ongoing operating expenditures would be \$12, 500; and one-time capital outlay would be \$4,000.

Programs of this initiative will be funded through funds appropriated to the STEM Education Fund.

Contact:

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