

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 16-0774.01 Jerry Barry x4341

HOUSE BILL 16-1198

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pabon and Wilson, Arndt

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tate and Kerr,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES FULFILLING CERTAIN**
102 **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill encourages school districts to count a computer science or coding course as fulfilling a graduation requirement in a mathematics or science subject area.

It directs the state board of education, when revising the preschool through elementary and secondary education standards in mathematics and science, to include knowledge and skills in computer science.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

Finally, the bill directs the department of education to create and maintain a resource bank including national model standards, model programs of instruction, model curricula, and model materials for professional educator development.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-32-133.5 as
3 follows:

4 **22-32-133.5. Computer science courses - legislative**
5 **declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

6 (a) COMPUTER SCIENCE AND COMPUTER CODING SKILLS ARE
7 WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS VALUABLE ASSETS IN THE CURRENT AND FUTURE
8 JOB MARKET;

9 (b) STUDENTS IN COLORADO WOULD BENEFIT FROM TAKING
10 COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL;

11 (c) HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO COMPUTER
12 SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL ARE MORE LIKELY TO
13 TAKE SUCH COURSES IN COLLEGE;

14 (d) MANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE NOT TAKING COMPUTER
15 SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES BECAUSE THEY ARE ELECTIVE COURSES
16 AND DO NOT COUNT TOWARD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS;

17 (e) ACCORDING TO THE CODE.ORG ADVOCACY COALITION, IN
18 STATES THAT COUNT A COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE AS EITHER A MATH OR
19 SCIENCE CREDIT TOWARD GRADUATION, THE AVERAGE CLASS SIZE IS
20 FIFTY-THREE PERCENT BIGGER THAN IN STATES WHERE COMPUTER SCIENCE
21 IS ONLY AN ELECTIVE; AND

22 (f) MORE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WOULD TAKE COMPUTER
23 SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES IF THEY FULFILLED A GRADUATION

1 REQUIREMENT IN MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE.

2 (2) ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO OFFER IN EVERY
3 HIGH SCHOOL ONE OR MORE COURSES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING.

4 (3) ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO AND MAY ELECT
5 TO TREAT COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES AS A MATHEMATICS
6 OR SCIENCE COURSE AND COUNT COMPLETION OF A COMPUTER SCIENCE OR
7 CODING COURSE TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF ANY MATHEMATICS OR
8 SCIENCE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1005, **add** (2.5)
10 as follows:

11 **22-7-1005. Preschool through elementary and secondary**
12 **education - aligned standards - adoption - revisions. (2.5)** ON OR
13 BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT STANDARDS THAT
14 IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT A SECONDARY STUDENT
15 SHOULD ACQUIRE RELATED TO COMPUTER SCIENCE, INCLUDING COMPUTER
16 CODE WRITING, IN ONE OR MORE COURSES THAT QUALIFY AS A
17 GRADUATION REQUIREMENT IN EITHER MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE. LOCAL
18 EDUCATION PROVIDERS MAY ELECT TO IMPLEMENT THE STANDARDS
19 ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2.5).

20

21 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
22 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.