

HB 2202 -- COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES

SPONSOR: Fitzwater

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill modifies the definition of "computer science course" by including any elementary, middle, or high school course that embeds computer science content within other subjects.

This bill requires, for all school years on or after July 1, 2023, certain coursework and instruction in computer science in public and charter high schools. Courses and instruction offered under this bill must meet certain standards established by the State Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

This bill requires school districts to submit to DESE certain information related to its computer science courses and demographic enrollment information for such courses.

On or before June 30th annually, DESE shall publish a list of computer science course codes and names with a course description, as well as other information specified in the bill. DESE shall appoint a computer science advisor to implement these provisions of the bill.

Beginning July 1, 2023, computer science courses successfully completed and counted toward state graduation requirements shall be equivalent to one science or practical arts credit for the purpose of satisfying admission requirements at any public institution of higher education in the state.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that several states have passed similar legislation. Missouri needs to be at a competitive advantage to address the labor shortages experienced by technical industries that are seeking to hire individuals who have the computer science background and knowledge base.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fitzwater; Cara Alexander Stark, Polsinelli; Amazon; Google; Code.Org; Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry; and the Gifted Association of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.