

HB 2202 -- COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES (Fitzwater)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Workforce Development

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.

The bill establishes the "Computer Science Education Task Force". The membership of the Task Force includes two members of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the Minority Leader; two members of the Senate with one appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and one appointed by the Minority Leader; the Governor or his designee; the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Higher Education or their designee; and six members as appointed by the Commissioner of Education representing various interested groups as specified.

The mission of the Task Force is to develop a state strategic plan for expansion of computer science education programs statewide and the details of the components of that plan are outlined in the bill.

The Task Force will hold its first meeting within one month from the effective date of the bill and submit a report outlining activities and recommendations for legislation to the General

Assembly before June 30, 2023. The Task Force will dissolve on June 30, 2024.