
SENATE BILL 5389

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman and Nobles

1 AN ACT Relating to teaching endorsements in computer science;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that computer
6 science opens more doors for students than any other discipline in
7 today's world and will be a vital component of a diverse and robust
8 economy moving forward.

9 (2) All public schools are required to fulfill the requirements
10 in RCW 28A.230.300, which requires that every high school offer an
11 elective computer science course by the 2022-23 school year. A
12 significant shortage of computer science teachers remains, and
13 schools are at risk of not providing these courses going forward.
14 Only 48 percent of public high schools across Washington teach
15 computer science. Without teachers who are certified or hold
16 specialty endorsements in computer science, it will be difficult to
17 deliver computer science classes that are effective, engaging, and
18 equitably taught to diverse students across our state.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The professional educator standards board shall develop
2 standards for two specialty endorsements in computer science, one in
3 elementary computer science and one in secondary computer science.

4 (2) The professional educator standards board shall consult with
5 the superintendent of public instruction to confirm that the
6 specialty endorsements reflect the appropriate content necessary to
7 teach computer science in the classroom, as defined by the office of
8 the superintendent of public instruction with industry input.

9 (3) The computer science specialty endorsements must be available
10 to all certificated teachers who hold a valid license and who
11 demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in computer science.

12 (4)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
13 this specific purpose, the legislature shall appropriate additional
14 funds in the computer science education grant program to support
15 teachers with the costs associated with becoming certified, endorsed,
16 or licensed in computer science including, but not limited to,
17 professional development, training, costs for licensure exams,
18 courses in pedagogy, and courses in computer science content.

19 (b) Entities eligible for funds under this subsection include,
20 but are not limited to, individual teachers, local education
21 agencies, approved professional learning providers, and institutions
22 of higher education located in Washington state.

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