SENATE BILL 5657

State of Washington   **67th Legislature**   **2022 Regular Session**

By Senators Wellman and Hunt

Prefiled 01/05/22.

1   AN ACT Relating to computer science instruction in state long-
2 term juvenile institutions; adding a new section to chapter 28A.190
3 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the benefit of
6 computer science and computational thinking in education, not only
7 with respect to educational development, but also in cultivating the
8 skills needed to compete and excel in our state's career landscape.
9 The legislature also recognizes the heightened importance of
10 providing access to computer science education to youth in secure
11 facilities, where access to innovative and engaging learning
12 experiences can: (1) Build in-demand skills to prepare students for
13 future employment; (2) help students transition back to their
14 communities following incarceration; and (3) prevent recidivism.
15 However, the legislature understands that state long-term juvenile
16 institutions have unique environmental and facility limitations that
17 affect the ability to deliver some components of computer science
18 instruction in a secure manner. Therefore, the legislature intends to
19 require school districts that operate institutional education
20 programs in state long-term juvenile institutions to provide access

1 to computer science courses, while allowing the flexibility to adjust
2 curriculum and instructional activities when necessary.

3   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.190
4 RCW to read as follows:
5   (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
6 specific purpose, each school district operating an institutional
7 education program for youth in state long-term juvenile institutions
8 must provide an opportunity to access an elective computer science
9 course in accordance with RCW 28A.230.300.
10   (2) If, due to facility or technology security limitations, a
11 school district cannot provide a computer science course that is
12 fully aligned with all state computer science learning standards, the
13 school district must adapt the course curriculum and instructional
14 activities to align with as many state computer science learning
15 standards as possible.
16   (3) Each school district operating an institutional education
17 program for youth in state long-term juvenile institutions must
18 annually report the following information to the office of the
19 superintendent of public instruction:
20   (a) Data indicating the number of students who enrolled in a
21 computer science course in the prior school year, disaggregated by
22 gender, race, ethnicity, and age;
23   (b) A brief description of each computer science course and
24 whether the course is fully aligned to state computer science
25 learning standards; and
26   (c) A brief description of any facility or technology security
27 limitations that prevent the school district from offering a course
28 fully aligned with state computer science learning standards, and the
29 actions the district is taking to address those limitations.

30   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
31 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
32 provided by June 30, 2022, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
33 act is null and void.

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