

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REREVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 16-0774.01 Jerry Barry x4341

**HOUSE BILL 16-1198**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Pabon and Wilson, Arndt**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Tate and Kerr,**

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**House Committees**  
Education

**Senate Committees**  
Education

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

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

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**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.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 30, 2016

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 29, 2016

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 16, 2016

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 15, 2016

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.

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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 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
23 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a  
24 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
25 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
26 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
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1 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
2 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
3 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.