A BILL FOR AN ACT

Concerning the creation of the computer science grant program.

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://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill creates in the department of education (department) the computer science courses and clubs grant program (grant program) to provide money to public schools or school districts in order to increase enrollment or participation of traditionally underrepresented students in computer science courses or clubs.

The bill requires the state board of education (board) to promulgate
rules necessary for the implementation of the grant program.

The bill requires the board to give priority to grant applications that:

! Demonstrate how the applicant will use the grant to serve a high-poverty student population, a high percentage of minority students, students in rural areas, or a high percentage of female students;

! Expose students to diverse professionals within the computer science industry; or

! Demonstrate a low number of computer science education courses or clubs offered in the public school or school district, if any.

The bill appropriates $250,000 each year for the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 fiscal years, from the general fund to the department. The department shall distribute the money to the education providers that receive a grant.

The bill requires each grant recipient to submit a report to the board.

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1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 2 to article 97 of title 22 as follows:

PART 2

COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES AND CLUBS GRANT PROGRAM

22-97-201. Short title. The short title of this part 2 is the "COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES AND CLUBS GRANT PROGRAM ACT".

22-97-202. Definitions. As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Computer science education" means the study of computers, algorithmic processes, and computer programming and coding, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society.

(2) "Department" means the department of education.
(3) "Grant program" means the computer science courses and clubs grant program created pursuant to section 22-97-203.

(4) "Public school" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-1-101 and includes, but is not limited to, a district charter school or an institute charter school.

(5) "School district" means a school district authorized by section 15 of article IX of the state constitution and organized pursuant to article 30 of this title 22. "School district" also includes a board of cooperative services created pursuant to article 5 of this title 22, if it is operating a public school; a district charter school; an institute charter school; and an online school, as defined in section 22-30.7-102 (9.5).

(6) "State board" means the state board of education created and existing pursuant to section 1 of article IX of the state constitution.

22-97-203. Computer science courses and clubs grant program - creation - rules - legislative declaration. (1) There is created in the department the computer science courses and clubs grant program to provide money to public schools or school districts in order to increase enrollment or participation of traditionally underrepresented students in computer science courses or clubs.

(2) The department shall administer the grant program in accordance with state board rules. The department shall accept and review grant applications received from public schools or school districts and shall make recommendations to
THE STATE BOARD FOR THE AWARD OF GRANTS. IN MAKING ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER THE PRIORITIES
CONTAINED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION. THE STATE BOARD SHALL
SELECT THE GRANT RECIPIENTS AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT.

(3) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 24, THE STATE BOARD SHALL
PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT
PROGRAM, INCLUDING RULES RELATING TO:

(a) THE APPLICATION PROCESS, INCLUDING APPLICATION
REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES. THE APPLICATION PROCESS MUST
INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

(I) DATA REGARDING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ARE
CURRENTLY ENROLLED OR PARTICIPATING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES
OR CLUBS OFFERED BY THE APPLICANT, IF ANY, DISAGGREGATED BASED
ON:

(A) GENDER;
(B) RACE AND ETHNICITY;
(C) STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION
SERVICES OR PROGRAMS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-20-103 (23);
(D) STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, AS
DEFINED IN SECTION 22-24-103 (4); AND
(E) STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-COST
LUNCH PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL "RICHARD B.
RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1751 ET SEQ.;

(II) A DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES OR CLUBS
CURRENTLY OFFERED BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICANT, IF ANY, INCLUDING WHETHER ANY ADVANCED PLACEMENT
COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES ARE OFFERED;
(b) Criteria for the award of grants, including the priorities for awarding grants contained in subsection (4) of this section;

(c) The amount and duration of the grants; and

(d) The approved uses of the grant.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3)(a)(I) of this section, if a demographic category described in subsection (3)(a)(I) of this section contains five or fewer students, that number on the application must be withheld in order to protect the identity of those students.

(5) In awarding grants, the state board shall give priority to grant applications that:

(a) Demonstrate how the applicant will use the grant to serve:

(I) A high-poverty student population;

(II) A high percentage of minority students;

(III) Students in rural areas; or

(IV) A high percentage of female students;

(b) Expose students to diverse professionals within the computer science industry; or

(c) Demonstrate a low number of computer science education courses or clubs offered in the public school or school district, if any.

(6) The general assembly shall appropriate two hundred fifty thousand dollars each year for the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 fiscal years, from the general fund to the department. The department shall distribute the money to the education
PROVIDERS THAT RECEIVE A GRANT.

22-97-204. Reporting. (1) No later than January 1, 2021, and no later than each January 1 thereafter, each grant recipient who was awarded a grant pursuant to section 22-97-203 during the previous school year shall submit a report to the state board.

(2) At a minimum, the report required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section must include:

(a) A description of the computer science courses or clubs and the computer science curriculum covered in the courses or clubs, including whether any advanced placement courses are offered;

(b) (i) The total number of students who are enrolled in the computer science courses or clubs offered by the grant recipient, and disaggregated based on:

(A) Gender;

(B) Race and ethnicity;

(C) Students who are enrolled in special education services or programs, as defined in section 22-20-103 (23);

(D) Students who are English language learners, as defined in section 22-24-103 (4); and

(E) Students who are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch pursuant to the provisions of the federal "Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act", 42 U.S.C. sec. 1751 et seq.

(ii) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section, if a demographic category described in subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section contains five or fewer students, that number on the
REPORT MUST BE WITHHELD IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THOSE
STUDENTS.

(3) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2021, AND NO LATER THAN EACH
JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH A PUBLIC
REPORT REGARDING THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE,
AT A MINIMUM, THE DATA REPORTED BY GRANT APPLICANTS, PURSUANT
TO SECTION 22-97-203 (3)(a)(I), AND THE DATA REPORTED BY ALL GRANT
RECIPIENTS, PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

22-97-205. Repeal of part. This part 2 is repealed, effective
JULY 1, 2024.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-97-101, amend
the introductory portion as follows:

22-97-101. Definitions. As used in this article 97 PART 1, unless
the context otherwise requires:

SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a
referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.