

SB 1590 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/10/22

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Gelser Blouin, Gorsek, Thomsen

Exc: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in consultation with STEM Investment Council, to develop a statewide plan to provide computer science education opportunities to public school students beginning in the 2027-2028 school year by March 15, 2023. Specifies requirements and objectives of plan. Directs ODE to convene a work group of stakeholders to develop plan. Requires ODE and STEM Investment Council to submit annual reports to interim legislative committees until January 2, 2028 and specifies report contents. Requires State Board of Education to adopt content standards for computer science by September 1, 2028. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Previous legislative action
- Importance of digital literacy and developing local talent
- Demographics of enrollment in computer science education programs
- Process for developing new instruction standards and curriculum

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Investment Council, created in 2013 by House Bill 2636, coordinates with the State Board of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop and oversee long-term statewide strategies to achieve the goals set forth by the Legislative Assembly. These goals aim to double the percentage of students in 4th and 8th grades who are proficient or advanced in mathematics and science and double the number of students who earn a post-secondary credential in a STEM discipline by the 2024-2025 school year as compared with the 2014-2015 school year. The 2021-2025 STEM Education Plan issued by the council noted limited and inequitable access to core STEM prerequisite curricula such as computer science education in most Oregon public schools. The plan recommended several strategies to integrate STEM teaching and learning principles across K-12 curricula in a way that is culturally and linguistically responsive. STEM instruction in Oregon is currently facilitated by 13 regional STEM hubs via grant funding from ODE. Computer science and digital literacy are among the STEM subjects under the purview of the regional STEM hubs.

Senate Bill 1590 A directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in consultation with the STEM Investment Council, to develop a statewide plan to provide computer science education to all public school students in Oregon for the 2027-2028 school year.