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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

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{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date 2024-01-30

Bill No: HB277

Sponsor: Sariñana, Debra M.
Short TEACHER LICENSE
Title: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Agency Name
and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing Comes, Douglas
Phone: 5056706478 Email douglas.comes@hed.n

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
N/A	\$150.00	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

HB277 amends existing statute regarding the creation of a pathway for licensure in computer science for K-12 teachers. In the existing statute, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) was directed to create a pathway for licensure in computer science for secondary teachers by December 31, 2021. As amended, NMPED would be required to create a pathway for licensure in computer science for all K-12 teachers by December 31, 2024.

HB277 also makes an appropriation of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in non-recurring funds from the General Fund to NMPED for these efforts.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department's (NMHED's) analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies' analyses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in non-recurring funds is appropriated from the General Fund to the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) for expenditure in FY25 to expand the scope of the computer science license endorsement pathway to all licensed teachers. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB277 amends existing statute regarding the creation of a pathway for licensure in computer science for K-12 teachers. In the existing statute, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) was directed to create a pathway for licensure in computer science for secondary teachers by December 31, 2021. As amended, NMPED is required to create a pathway for licensure in computer science for all K-12 teachers by December 31, 2024.

HB277 also makes an appropriation of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in non-recurring funds from the General Fund to NMPED for these efforts.

Per the requirements from HB188 enacted in the 2021 legislative session, NMPED has created a pathway for secondary teachers to earn an endorsement in computer science (<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/licensure/endorsements-how-to-add-a-license/computer-science/>). HB277 removes the language relating to the secondary level, now requiring that a pathway be created for teachers of all K-12 levels.

The New Mexico Legislature has proposed several pieces of legislation regarding computer science in K-12 education since the 2017 legislative session. HB277 continues these efforts.

- In 2017, SB134 required that one unit of math or science coursework required for graduation could be fulfilled through one unit of computer science courses. This was enacted.
- In 2019, SJM9 sought to create a computer science task force to study the development of a strategic plan for expanding computer science education in elementary and secondary schools. This was not enacted.
- In 2019, HB341 sought to create a fund which would have provided grants to schools and districts for teacher professional development in computer science. This was not enacted.
- In 2020, SB222 sought to create pre-service computer science education programs. This bill was not enacted. A similar bill (HB136) has been proposed this legislative session (see Conflict, Duplication, Companionship and Relationship).
- In 2021, HB126 would have made computer science courses a required part of high school course offerings. This bill was not enacted. HB171 from the current legislative session includes a provision which requires computer science courses be offered in high school (see Conflict, Duplication, Companionship and Relationship).
- In 2021, HB188 amended existing statute to require NMPED to create a pathway for endorsement in secondary computer science by December 31, 2021. This bill was enacted. The requirements from HB188 from 2021 are what HB277 from this legislative session amends.
- In 2023, HB335 would have required computer science coursework be included in elementary and middle school. Additionally, it would have required that computer science courses be offered in high schools. This bill was not enacted. HB171 from the current legislative session includes a provision which requires that computer science courses be offered in high school (see Conflict, Duplication, Companionship and Relationship).

From a 2022 Edweek article, "[as] of 2022, every state in the nation has passed at least one law or policy intended to promote K-12 computer science education, and 53 percent of high schools offered basic computer science courses that year, according to the nonprofit advocacy group Code.org.? The article continues "[as] of 2019-20, computer science was the least popular certification subject for new teachers, according to the latest data from federal teacher improvement grants,? (<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/states-are-calling-for-more-computer-science-classes-now-they-need-the-teachers/2023/10>).

A scan of New Mexico's four-year higher education institutions (HEIs) found that only New Mexico Highlands University offers a program explicitly leading to licensure in teaching computer science (Math and Computer Science for Secondary Teachers). It is unclear if math teacher preparation programs at other HEIs include pathways to earn computer science endorsements in their required coursework.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) is required to create a license endorsement in computer science available to K-12 teachers who hold a valid license and demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in computer science as determined by NMPED by December 31, 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) will administer the program. The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) will likely provide support in relation to its role relating to teacher preparation programming and the role that higher education institutions (HEIs) might have in supporting the development of a computer science license.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB171 - School Graduation Requirements: This bill includes a requirement that computer science courses be offered.

HB136 - Pre-Service Computer Science Ed. Program: This bill makes an appropriation for grants to higher education institutions (HEIs) to develop a pre-service teacher computer science education program.

HB278 - Computer Science Embedded in Schools: This bill requires that computer science courses be embedded in elementary and middle school subjects as well as being a standalone class in high school. Additionally, it provides for professional development for teachers in computer science instruction and creates a fund which will provide grants for computer science professional development by schools and districts.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A

AMENDMENTS

N/A