IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 379

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1   AN ACT
2 RELATING TO COURSES OF INSTRUCTION; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AND
3   AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SEC-
4   TION 33-1633, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE
5   FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND RELATED PROVISIONS.

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7   SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The Legislature recognizes that a sig-
8 nificant increase in the number of computer science and related technology
9 graduates from the state's higher education institutions is required over
10 the next several years to advance the intellectual, cultural, social and
11 economic well-being of the state and its citizens. It is essential that
12 efforts to increase computer science instruction, kindergarten through
13 career, be driven by the needs of industry and be developed in partnership
14 with industry and that industry participate in the funding of the state's
15 computer science education initiatives.

16   SECTION 2. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
17 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
18 ignated as Section 33-1633, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

19   33-1633. COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (1) As used
20 in this section:
21   (a) "Blended professional development" means to deliver content and
22   training to teachers and administrators in a combination of online and
23   face-to-face.
24   (b) "Computer science" means the study of principles, applications and
25   technologies of computing and computers.
26   (2) The STEM action center, the state board of education and the state
27 department of education shall collaborate to develop and implement a com-
28 puter science initiative for public schools by:
29   (a) Adopting computer science content standards in 2016 aligned with
30   nationally recognized computer science education standards with input
31   from Idaho educators and industries for implementation in the 2017-2018
32   school year;
33   (b) Providing for professional development in teaching computer sci-
34   ence by:
35   (i) Developing resources for teachers and administrators relat-
36   ing to teaching computational thinking;
37   (ii) Providing statewide, regional, online and blended profes-
38   sional development opportunities for school district staff;
39   (iii) Partnering with entities such as the Idaho digital learning
40   academy, public higher education institutions and industry to de-

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1 velop, deliver and provide professional development in computer
2 science for teachers; and
3   (iv) Distributing grants to school districts and charter schools
4   that may be used to provide incentives for teachers to pursue
5   training in computer science or earn a computer science endorse-
6   ment;
7 (c) Maintaining, using and enhancing access to an online portal or
8 repository of instructional resources that:
9   (i) Is available for school districts and charter schools to use
10   as a resource;
11   (ii) Includes high-quality computer science instructional re-
12   sources that are designed to teach K-12 students computational
13   thinking skills and are in alignment with the state computer sci-
14   ence content standards;
15   (iii) Leverages existing online resources and portals developed
16   by state and governmental entities; and
17   (iv) Allows for collaborative contribution and sharing of re-
18   sources by teachers and administrators;
19 (d) Evaluating providers of comprehensive computer science instruc-
20 tional software solutions and providing research, support and guidance
21 on implementing software solutions for computer science courses or pro-
22 grams aligned with the state computer science content standards;
23 (e) Creating opportunities for schools to partner with local companies
24 to provide for student and teacher mentoring and internships in the com-
25 puter science field;
26 (f) Communicating and supporting computer science initiatives, pro-
27 grams, events, training and other promotions throughout the state for
28 the benefit of school districts, students, parents and local communi-
29 ties; and
30 (g) Creating equitable access to computer science resources and pro-
31 grams aligned with the state computer science content standards for
32 teachers, administrators and students throughout the state.
33 (3) The STEM action center, the state board of education and the state
34 department of education shall, when economical and beneficial, leverage ex-
35 isting state resources and systems to effectively and efficiently carry out
36 the directives of this computer science initiative for public schools.
37 (4) The STEM action center board may select one (1) or more providers
38 through a request for proposals process to provide a comprehensive computer
39 science software solution for school districts to implement.
40 (5) The STEM action center, the division of professional-technical
41 education and industry shall collaborate to create technical postsecondary
42 courses of study in areas related to computer science that meet workforce
43 needs.
44 (6) The STEM action center shall collaborate with the state board of
45 education, division of professional-technical education, the state depart-
46 ment of education, public higher education institutions and industry to de-
47 velop a communication plan related to the computer science initiative.
48 (7) The STEM action center and the state board of education shall pro-
49 vide an annual report to the legislature on the status of this initiative.

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