A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for computer science and computer coding
2   instruction in the minimum state education curriculum and
3   providing for a related computer science advisory council to
4   be convened by the director of the department of education
5   and including applicability provisions.
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1   Section 1.   Section 256.9, Code 2016, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:
3   NEW SUBSECTION.   67.   Convene a computer science advisory
4 council to make recommendations regarding the requirement that
5 each accredited high school offer at least one high-quality
6 computer science course by the school year beginning July 1,
7 2018, pursuant to section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph
8 *"k"*. The council shall submit its recommendations to the
9 governor and the general assembly by October 1, 2016. The
10 recommendations shall also include but not be limited to the
11 following:
12   *a.* Standards for one or more high-quality computer science
13 courses, with one or more models for such courses to be
14 developed by the department by July 1, 2017.
15   *b.* A recommendation as to whether one or more such
16 high-quality computer science courses could be integrated into
17 a career and technical education pathway.
18   *c.* A recommendation as to how one or more such high-quality
19 computer science courses could satisfy the high school
20 graduation requirement for mathematics.
21   *d.* Multiple settings for the delivery of high-quality high
22 school computer science courses, including traditional high
23 school classes, concurrent enrollment classes, and online
24 learning classes that include the opportunity for students to
25 collaborate within a classroom setting.
26   *e.* Guidelines for creating a kindergarten through grade
27 twelve career pathway in computer science, with an appropriate
28 scope and sequence for high-quality computer science
29 instruction, which would include a unit on coding in seventh
30 or eighth grade to be required by the school year beginning on
31 July 1, 2018, pursuant to section 256.11, subsection 4.
32   *f.* Licensure and professional development requirements to
33 ensure that teachers are prepared for and supported in the
34 delivery of high-quality computer science courses.
35   Sec. 2.   Section 256.11, subsection 4, Code 2016, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2   4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and

3 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;

4 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human

5 growth and development; family, consumer, career, and

6 technology education; physical education; music; and visual

7 art. The health curriculum shall include age-appropriate

8 and research-based information regarding the characteristics

9 of sexually transmitted diseases, including HPV and the

10 availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired immune

11 deficiency syndrome. The technology education curriculum shall

12 include one unit on computer coding. The state board as part

13 of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum definitions

14 for implementing the program in grades seven and eight.

15 However, this subsection shall not apply to the teaching of

16 family, consumer, career, and technology education in nonpublic

17 schools. For purposes of this section, *"age-appropriate"*,

18 *"HPV"*, and *"research-based"* mean the same as defined in section

19 279.50.

20   Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, Code 2016, is amended

21 by adding the following new paragraph:

22   NEW PARAGRAPH. *k.* One unit of high-quality computer science

23 education.

24   Sec. 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection

25 3, shall not apply to this Act.

26   Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. The provisions of this Act amending

27 section 256.11 apply to school years beginning on or after July

28 1, 2018.

29   EXPLANATION

30   **The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with**

31   **the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.**

32   This bill adds one unit of high-quality computer science

33 education to the minimum educational program to be offered and

34 taught for grades 9 through 12. The bill also provides that

35 the technology education component of the minimum educational

1 program to be offered and taught for grades seven and eight
2 shall include one unit on computer coding. These requirements
3 apply to school years beginning on or after July 1, 2018.
4   The bill also requires the director of the department of
5 education to convene a computer science advisory council to
6 make recommendations regarding the requirements. The bill
7 provides for additional recommendations to be made by the
8 council. The council shall submit its recommendations to the
9 governor and the general assembly by October 1, 2016.
10   The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
11 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section 25B.2,
12 subsection 3, which would relieve a political subdivision from
13 complying with a state mandate if funding for the cost of
14 the state mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore,
15 political subdivisions are required to comply with any state
16 mandate included in the bill.