Senate Study Bill 3097 - Introduced

A BILL FOR

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

1 ensure that teachers are prepared for and supported in the
2 delivery of high-quality computer programming and applications
3 courses.
4   Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 4, Code 2016, is amended
5 to read as follows:
6   4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and
7 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;
8 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human
9 growth and development; family, consumer, career, and
10 technology education; physical education; music; and visual
11 art. The health curriculum shall include age-appropriate
12 and research-based information regarding the characteristics
13 of sexually transmitted diseases, including HPV and the
14 availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired immune
15 deficiency syndrome. The technology education curriculum shall
16 include one unit on computer applications and coding. The
17 state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt
18 curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades
19 seven and eight. However, this subsection shall not apply to
20 the teaching of family, consumer, and career, and technology
21 education in nonpublic schools. For purposes of this section,
22 *"age-appropriate"*, *"HPV"*, and *"research-based"* mean the same as
23 defined in section 279.50.
24   Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, Code 2016, is amended
25 by adding the following new paragraph:
26   NEW PARAGRAPH. *k.* One unit of high-quality computer
27 programming and applications education.
28   Sec. 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection
29 3, shall not apply to this Act.
30   Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. The provisions of this Act amending
31 section 256.11 apply to school years beginning on or after July
32 1, 2018.
33   EXPLANATION

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