HOUSE FILE 253
BY INGELS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to computer science instruction, including by
2   modifying provisions related to the graduation requirements,
3   the computer science instruction provided by students enrolled
4   in grades nine through twelve, computer science instruction
5   endorsements and authorizations issued by the board of
6   educational examiners, and the computer science professional
7   development incentive fund.
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,
2 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:
3 Adopt a core curriculum and adopt rules that establish
4 high school graduation requirements for all students in school
5 districts and accredited nonpublic schools that include at a
6 minimum satisfactory completion of four years of English and
7 language arts, three years of mathematics, three years of
8 science, ~~and~~ three years of social studies, and, beginning
9 with students in the 2029-2030 school year graduating class,
10 one semester of computer science, or the trimester or quarter
11 equivalent, which may include computer science instruction
12 provided in grade eight pursuant to section 256.11, subsection 4.
13 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code 2025,
14 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:
15 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (3) The five units of science may include
16 up to one unit of instruction related to computer science.
17 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraphs e and l,
18 Code 2025, are amended to read as follows:
19 *e.* Two additional units of mathematics.
20 (1) The two additional units of mathematics may include
21 instruction related to applied sciences, technology, engineering,
22 or manufacturing, including transportation, distribution,
23 logistics, architecture, and construction, which may be offered
24 and taught through dedicated units of coursework or through units
25 of coursework that also meet the requirements of the coursework
26 required under paragraph "*h*", subparagraph (1), subparagraph
27 division (c). The state board shall adopt rules pursuant to
28 chapter 17A to implement this ~~paragraph~~ subparagraph.
29 (2) The two additional units of mathematics may include up to
30 one unit of instruction related to computer science.
31 *l.* (1) One-half unit of computer science ~~commencing with~~
32 ~~the school year beginning July 1, 2022~~. The one-half unit
33 of computer science shall incorporate the standards established
34 pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "*a*",
35 subparagraph (4)~~, and may be offered online in accordance with~~

1 ~~rules adopted pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 32, paragraph~~
2 ~~"a".~~ The one-half unit of computer science shall satisfy all of
3 the following requirements:
4 (a) Be of high quality.
5 (b) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements
6 established by the state board.
7 (c) Be offered and taught in a traditional classroom setting;
8 provided, however, that if a traditional classroom setting is not
9 feasible, the one-half unit of computer science may be offered
10 and taught in any of the following ways:
11 (i) Through a combination of instruction that is delivered in
12 a traditional classroom setting and instruction that is delivered
13 primarily over the internet.
14 (ii) Through instruction that is delivered primarily over the
15 internet in accordance with rules adopted by the state board
16 pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 32, paragraph "a", and is
17 tailored to meet the needs of each participating student.
18 (2) (a) All students, beginning with students in the
19 2029-2030 school year graduating class, shall complete one-half
20 unit of computer science as a condition of graduation, which
21 may include computer science instruction provided in grade eight
22 pursuant to section 256.11, subsection 4. The condition of
23 graduation shall not apply to a student who enrolls in a school
24 district or an accredited nonpublic school in grade twelve
25 immediately after being enrolled in a school located outside of
26 this state.
27 (b) On or before July 1, 2029, a school district or
28 accredited nonpublic school may apply to the department of
29 education for a one-time waiver of the implementation of the
30 condition of graduation described in this subparagraph. The
31 waiver shall be for a period not longer than one school year.
32 (c) The state board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
33 17A establishing standards for the submission of applications
34 for waivers of the implementation of the condition of graduation
35 described in this subparagraph and the department's consideration

1 and approval of waivers.

2   (3) The department shall publish on the department's internet
3 site a list of computer science courses that satisfy the rules
4 adopted by the state board pursuant to section 256.7, subsection
5 32, paragraph "c", and that a school district or accredited
6 nonpublic school may use to implement the graduation requirement
7 described in subparagraph (2). The list shall include the names
8 of the computer science courses and the course codes associated
9 with each computer science course.

10   (4) Each school district shall report annually to the
11 department all of the following:

12   (a) To the extent such information is available, the course
13 names and course codes associated with all computer science
14 courses offered and taught in the school district pursuant to
15 this paragraph and a description of format in which each course
16 is offered and taught.

17   (b) The number of teachers employed by the school district
18 who teach computer science instruction, sortable by the
19 endorsements and authorizations held by each teacher and the
20 highest academic degree attained by each teacher. The report
21 shall not include any personally identifiable information related
22 to the teachers employed by the school district who teach
23 computer science instruction.

24   (c) The number of students enrolled in a computer science
25 course offered and taught by the school district pursuant to this
26 paragraph, sortable by the grade level of each student. The
27 report shall not include any personally identifiable information
28 related to the students enrolled in a computer science course
29 offered and taught by the school district.

30   Sec. 4. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph h, Code 2025,
31 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

32   NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (04) Units of instruction provided under
33 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (b) or (c), may include
34 up to one unit of instruction related to computer science, if
35 the teacher providing such instruction has either an initial

1 career and technical education authorization issued by the board
2 of educational examiners or a career and technical education
3 authorization issued by the board of educational examiners.
4   Sec. 5. Section 256.13, Code 2025, is amended to read as
5 follows:
6   **256.13 Nonresident pupils.**
7   The boards of directors of two or more school districts may
8 by agreement provide for attendance of pupils residing in one
9 district in the schools of another district for the purpose of
10 taking courses not offered in the district of their residence,
11 including computer science courses described in section 256.11,
12 subsection 5, paragraph "*l*". The boards may also provide by
13 agreement that the districts will combine their enrollments for
14 one or more grades. Courses and grades made available to
15 students in this manner shall be considered as complying with
16 any standards or laws requiring the offering of such courses and
17 grades. The boards of directors of districts entering into such
18 agreements may provide for sharing the costs and expenses of the
19 courses. If the agreement provides for whole grade sharing, the
20 costs and expenses shall be paid as provided in sections 282.10
21 through 282.12.
22   Sec. 6. Section 256.146, subsection 19, Code 2025, is amended
23 to read as follows:
24   19. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A establishing
25 endorsements and authorizations for computer science instruction,
26 ~~including~~. The rules shall include traditional and
27 nontraditional pathways for obtaining such endorsements or
28 authorizations, including through instruction that is delivered
29 primarily over the internet that may be used to demonstrate
30 competence in computer science instruction for teachers under an
31 initial or conditional license.
32   Sec. 7. Section 284.6A, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
33 by adding the following new paragraph:
34   NEW PARAGRAPH. *0c.* In order to provide students with the
35 competencies to compete in a twenty-first century workforce,

1 develop skills that translate into high-wage jobs, develop
2 problem solving and critical thinking skills, and encourage
3 the creation and retention of new, high-wage jobs in this
4 state, all high school students enrolled in school districts or
5 accredited nonpublic schools, beginning with the 2029-2030 school
6 year graduating class, students should complete one semester of
7 computer science as a condition of graduation as required by
8 section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "*a*".
9   Sec. 8. Section 284.6A, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code 2025,
10 is amended to read as follows:
11   *b.* A school district or accredited nonpublic school may apply
12 to the department, in the manner prescribed by the department,
13 to receive moneys from the fund to provide tuition reimbursement
14 for Iowa teachers, including Iowa teachers under an initial or
15 conditional license, seeking endorsements or authorizations for
16 computer science under section 256.146, subsection 19.
17   Sec. 9. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance with
18 section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
19 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
20 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
21 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
22 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
23 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of section
24 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall
25 be necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and
26 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.
27   EXPLANATION
28   The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
29   the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
30   This bill relates to computer science instruction, including
31 by modifying provisions related to the graduation requirements,
32 the computer science instruction provided to students enrolled
33 in grades 9 through 12, computer science instruction endorsements
34 and authorizations issued by the board of educational examiners
35 (BOEE), and the computer science professional development

1 incentive fund.

2   Current law provides that the graduation requirements
3 applicable to students enrolled in school districts and
4 accredited nonpublic schools shall include, at a minimum,
5 satisfactory completion of four years of English and language
6 arts, three years of mathematics, three years of science,
7 and three years of social studies. The bill provides that
8 such graduation requirements shall also include, beginning
9 with students in the 2029-2030 school year graduating class,
10 satisfactory completion of one semester of computer science, or
11 the trimester or quarter equivalent, which may include computer
12 science instruction provided in grade eight.

13   Current law requires school districts and accredited nonpublic
14 schools to offer and teach to students enrolled in grades 9
15 through 12 five units of science and two additional units of
16 mathematics. The bill provides that the five units of science
17 may include up to one unit of instruction related to computer
18 science, and the two additional units of mathematics may include
19 up to one unit of instruction related to computer science.

20   Current law requires school districts and accredited nonpublic
21 schools to offer and teach to students enrolled in grades 9
22 through 12 one-half unit of computer science. The bill modifies
23 provisions related to how the computer science instruction is
24 offered and taught by allowing the instruction to be offered and
25 taught through blended learning, or through instruction that is
26 delivered primarily over the internet, when it is not possible
27 to provide such instruction in a traditional classroom setting.
28 Current law allows school districts to, by agreement, provide for
29 attendance of pupils residing in one district in the schools of
30 another district for the purpose of taking courses not offered
31 in the district of their residence. The bill provides that such
32 courses may include computer science courses.

33   The bill modifies provisions related to the career and
34 technical education instruction provided to students enrolled
35 in grades 9 through 12 to provide that instruction provided

1 under either the arts, communications, and information systems
2 or applied sciences, technology, engineering, and manufacturing
3 service areas may include up to one unit of instruction related
4 to computer science, if the teacher has either an initial career
5 and technical education authorization or a career and technical
6 education authorization issued by the BOEE.
7   The bill requires all students, beginning with students in
8 the 2029-2030 school year graduating class, to complete one-half
9 unit of computer science as a condition of graduation. The
10 bill provides that the condition of graduation shall not apply
11 to a student who enrolls in a school district or an accredited
12 nonpublic school in grade 12 immediately after being enrolled in
13 a school located outside of this state. The bill authorizes
14 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to apply to
15 the department of education (DE) for a one-time waiver of
16 the implementation of the graduation requirement. The bill
17 requires the state board of education to adopt rules establishing
18 standards for the submission of applications for waivers of
19 the implementation of the condition of graduation and DE's
20 consideration and approval of waivers.
21   The bill requires DE to publish on DE's internet site certain
22 information related to computer science courses that satisfy
23 DE's requirements and courses that may be used to satisfy the
24 computer science graduation requirement. The bill requires
25 school districts to report annually to DE specified information
26 related to teachers providing computer science instruction and
27 students involved in computer science courses.
28   The bill requires that the rules adopted by the BOEE
29 establishing nontraditional pathways for obtaining endorsements
30 and authorizations for computer science instruction also include
31 opportunities to obtain such endorsements or authorizations
32 through instruction that is delivered primarily over the internet
33 that may be used to demonstrate competence in computer science
34 instruction for teachers under an initial or conditional license.
35   Current law establishes a computer science professional

1 development incentive fund in the state treasury under the
2 control of DE. Current law authorizes DE to disburse moneys
3 contained in the fund to a school district or accredited
4 nonpublic school to provide tuition reimbursement for Iowa
5 teachers seeking endorsements or authorizations for computer
6 science from the BOEE. The bill modifies this provision to
7 allow such tuition reimbursement to be provided to Iowa teachers
8 under an initial or conditional license.
9   The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
10 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
11 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
12 district from state school foundation aid received by the
13 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
14 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state
15 mandate funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
16 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
17 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
18 mandates included in the bill.