

## CHAPTER 122

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**EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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**HOUSE BILL 16-1198**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pabon and Wilson, Arndt, Duran, Fields, Garnett, Hamner, Kraft-Tharp, Lee, Lontine, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Pettersen, Priola, Rosenthal, Ryden, Salazar, Singer, Tyler, Williams, Winter, Young, Hulinghorst; also SENATOR(S) Tate and Kerr, Carroll, Guzman, Heath, Jones, Kefalas, Newell, Todd, Ulibarri.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES FULFILLING CERTAIN GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-32-133.5** as follows:

**22-32-133.5. Computer science courses - legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(a) COMPUTER SCIENCE AND COMPUTER CODING SKILLS ARE WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS VALUABLE ASSETS IN THE CURRENT AND FUTURE JOB MARKET;

(b) STUDENTS IN COLORADO WOULD BENEFIT FROM TAKING COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL;

(c) HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL ARE MORE LIKELY TO TAKE SUCH COURSES IN COLLEGE;

(d) MANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE NOT TAKING COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES BECAUSE THEY ARE ELECTIVE COURSES AND DO NOT COUNT TOWARD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS;

(e) ACCORDING TO THE CODE.ORG ADVOCACY COALITION, IN STATES THAT COUNT A COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE AS EITHER A MATH OR SCIENCE CREDIT TOWARD GRADUATION, THE AVERAGE CLASS SIZE IS FIFTY-THREE PERCENT BIGGER THAN IN STATES WHERE COMPUTER SCIENCE IS ONLY AN ELECTIVE; AND

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

(f) MORE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WOULD TAKE COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES IF THEY FULFILLED A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT IN MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE.

(2) ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO OFFER IN EVERY HIGH SCHOOL ONE OR MORE COURSES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING.

(3) ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO AND MAY ELECT TO TREAT COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CODING COURSES AS A MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE COURSE AND COUNT COMPLETION OF A COMPUTER SCIENCE OR CODING COURSE TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF ANY MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1005, **add** (2.5) as follows:

**22-7-1005. Preschool through elementary and secondary education - aligned standards - adoption - revisions.** (2.5) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT STANDARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT A SECONDARY STUDENT SHOULD ACQUIRE RELATED TO COMPUTER SCIENCE, INCLUDING COMPUTER CODE WRITING, IN ONE OR MORE COURSES THAT QUALIFY AS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT IN EITHER MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE. LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS MAY ELECT TO IMPLEMENT THE STANDARDS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2.5).

**SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 21, 2016