

SB 1590 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in consultation with STEM Investment Council, to develop statewide plan to provide computer science education opportunities to public school students by the 2027-2028 school year. Specifies requirements and objectives of plan. Directs ODE to convene work group of stakeholders to develop plan. Requires ODE and STEM Investment Council to submit annual report to interim legislative committees and specifies report contents. Sunsets January 2, 2028. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Previous legislative efforts
- Importance of digital literacy and developing local talent
- Demographics of enrollment in computer science education programs
- Process for developing new instruction standards and curriculum

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Sets deadline of March 15, 2023 for ODE and STEM Investment Council to develop strategic plan. Removes requirement that strategic plan identify strategies for incorporating computer science into existing academic content standards. Adds tribal governments to list of work group participants. Applies sunset of January 2, 2028 to annual reporting requirement. Requires State Board of Education to adopt content standards for computer science. Becomes operative September 1, 2028. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

The STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Investment Council, created in 2013 by House Bill 2636, coordinates with the State Board of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop and oversee long-term statewide strategies to achieve the goals set forth by the Legislative Assembly. These goals aim to double the percentage of students in 4th and 8th grades who are proficient or advanced in mathematics and science and double the number of students who earn a postsecondary credential in a STEM discipline by the 2024-25 school year as compared with the 2014-2015 school year. The 2021-2025 STEM Education Plan issued by the council noted limited and inequitable access to core STEM prerequisite curricula such as computer science education in most Oregon public schools. The plan recommended several strategies to integrate STEM teaching and learning principles across K-12 curricula in a way that is culturally and linguistically responsive. STEM instruction in Oregon is primarily facilitated by 13 regional STEM hubs via grant funding from ODE. Computer science and digital literacy are among the STEM subjects under the purview of the STEM hubs.

Senate Bill 1590 directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in consultation with the STEM Investment Council, to develop a statewide plan to provide computer science education to all public school students in Oregon by the 2027-2028 school year.