## SB 541    STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Education

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| **Prepared By:** | Chris Bechtel, LPRO Fellow |
| **Sub-Referral To:** | Joint Committee On Ways and Means |
| **Meeting Dates:** | 2/5, 3/5 |

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

This measure requires all public schools to offer computer science education at all grade levels beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop and maintain teacher supports, hire staff, and support access to computer science education. This measure also requires the State Board of Education to include computer science in its regular review of Common Curriculum Goals, performance indicators, and diploma requirements. It appropriates $20 million from the General Fund to ODE for the purpose of this act. This measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.
Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**
- Examined the K-5 grade curriculums
- Access to computer science education
- Issues implementing courses at the high school level
- Staffing issues within computer science education

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

In May 2022, Governor Brown directed the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to develop a statewide plan for computer science education and ensure access to computer science education opportunities to every public-school student by the 2027-2028 school year. ODE and HECC released the statewide implementation plan in December 2023. The plan found that sixty percent of public high schools in Oregon offered a foundational computer science course and twenty two percent of the 2022 graduating class took a computer science course.

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According to the report, Oregon has not dedicated funding to computer science courses from 2016-2023. ODE proposed an initial funding of $20 million for implementing the outcomes and strategies, $50 million for new equipment and hiring of 128 teachers, and up to $200 million to sustain a long-term funding program for every school to have a computer science teacher.