Legislative Analysis

REQUIRE COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE OFFERING

House Bill 5649 (proposed substitute H-1)
Sponsor: Rep. Carol Glanville
Committee: Education
Revised 6-4-24

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5649 would amend the Revised School Code to require a ***public high school*** to offer at least one ***computer science*** course starting with the 2027-2028 school year.

> ***Public high school*** would mean a public school that offers at least one of grades 9 to 12.
>
> ***Computer science*** would mean the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, hardware and software designs, implementation, and impact on society, that focuses on teaching students how to create new technologies and not solely on the use of technology.

The computer science course would have to meet both of the following:
- Meet or exceed standards established by the State Board of Education. [1]
- Be listed as an option on the school's catalog of courses, as confirmed by the district, intermediate school district (ISD), or public school academy (PSA).

Except for a public high school that operates entirely virtually, the public high school would have to make a good-faith effort to offer the course in an in-person setting. However, if an in-person setting is not feasible for purposes of this requirement, the school could offer the course through a virtual or distance-based option.

Proposed MCL 380.1166c

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state and could increase costs for certain local school districts, intermediate school districts, and public school academies.

The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) notes that of the 1,265 high schools that reported students in the MSDS Teacher Student Data Link Collection in the 2022-2023 school year, 864 high schools (68%) had students who took at least one computer science–related course and 401 high schools (32%) did not report any students taking computer science–related courses. According to CEPI, these counts should be considered a rough approximation, since they are produced using a methodology that considers school course classification codes and key words in course names.

---

[1] https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/academic-standards/michigan-k-12-computer-science-standards

School districts, ISDs, and PSAs that do not currently offer a qualifying computer science course in each high school would incur costs to meet that requirement under the bill. These costs would vary depending on local factors.

Legislative Analyst: Josh Roesner
Fiscal Analysts: Jacqueline Mullen
Noel Benson