

S.F. No. 757 – Computer Science Education Advancement

Author: Senator Heather Gustafson

Prepared by: Betsy Hjelseth, Legislative Analyst (651/296-7983)

Date: February 6, 2023

Section 1. **Computer Science Education Advancement Fund.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** Defines “computer science” as the study of computers and algorithmic processes. Defines “computer science courses and content” as courses that teach computer science. Defines “high-quality computer science educator training” as activities that clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science, teach research-based practices, are intended for existing teachers with or without prior computer science experience, and that align with existing integrated computer science standards in Minnesota or nationally. Defines “high-quality computer science professional learning providers” as higher education institutions, nonprofits, other state-funded entities, or private entities that have high-quality computer science professional educator training for teachers.

Subd. 2. **Funding.** Appropriates \$4,000,000 from the general fund to the computer science education advancement fund beginning in 2024. Requires the funds to be used to implement any of the provisions of this act and expenses related to the development, advancement, and promotion of computer science education in grades kindergarten through grade 12.

Subd. 3. **Computer science education supervisor and advisory committee.** Requires the Department of Education to create a full-time computer science supervisor position that implements this act and the computer science education strategic plan. Requires the department to create a computer science education advisory committee to develop a state strategic plan for a statewide computer science education program.

Subd. 4. **Computer science educator training.** Requires that the computer science education advancement fund be used by the department or eligible entities to develop and implement teacher recruitment and educator training programs for computer science courses and content under subdivision 1 and aligned to the state strategic plan as developed under subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. **Making computer science count.** Requires the department to develop a high school graduation policy by December 31, 2023, that allows students to fulfill specific credit requirements using computer science courses.

Subd. 6. **Incentives for teacher preparation.** Requires teacher preparation programs that lead to professional certification to include instruction in computer science by July 1, 2027. Requires the Office of Higher Education to use funds to support eligible preservice education programs to develop and implement pathways in computer science education.

Subd. 7. **Kindergarten through grade 12 data collection system and mandated reporting.** Requires the department to develop a plan that allows for the secure and automatic regular reporting of data and information for kindergarten through grade 1 public schools.

Subd. 8. **Adoption of rules.** Allows the department and the Professional Educator Standards and Licensing Board to adopt rules to administer the computer science education advancement fund and rules for flexible options to license computer science teachers.