

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1284

Introduced by Walz, 15; McKinney, 11.

Read first time January 16, 2024

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Computer Science and Technology
2 Education Act; to amend section 79-3301, Revised Statutes Cumulative
3 Supplement, 2022; to require the State Department of Education to
4 establish a statewide computer science education expansion program
5 to provide training in computer science and technology education as
6 prescribed; to provide powers and duties to the State Board of
7 Education and the State Department of Education; to state intent
8 regarding appropriations; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the
9 original section.
10 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-3301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2022, is amended to read:

3 79-3301 Sections 79-3301 to 79-3305 and sections 2 and 3 of this act
4 shall be known and may be cited as the Computer Science and Technology
5 Education Act.

6 Sec. 2. (1) The State Department of Education shall establish a
7 statewide computer science education expansion program to recruit, train,
8 and support teachers in computer science and technology education. Such
9 program shall include:

10 (a) Training for teachers seeking supplemental computer science
11 certification;

12 (b) Training designed to support the integration of computer science
13 and technology education into the instructional programs of elementary,
14 middle, and high schools; and

15 (c) Support for schools and teachers in the development of computer
16 science instructional plans that are consistent with the academic content
17 standards for computer science and technology education adopted by the
18 State Board of Education.

19 (2) The State Department of Education shall employ or contract with
20 computer science specialists to develop and deliver computer science
21 educator training. Such training shall be provided in a manner that every
22 teacher in this state has reasonable access to the training.

23 (3) The State Department of Education shall annually submit a report
24 electronically to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature relating
25 to the statewide computer science education expansion program. Such
26 report shall include:

27 (a) The number of training opportunities held and the format of such
28 training;

29 (b) The number of teachers who received training;

30 (c) To the extent such information is available, the number of
31 teachers that became certified or received an endorsement in computer

1 science and technology education or began teaching a class in computer
2 science and technology education within three calendar months following
3 completion of training provided pursuant to this section; and

4 (d) The costs associated with such training for the fiscal year
5 covered by the report.

6 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and
7 regulations to carry out this section.

8 Sec. 3. (1) The Computer Science and Technology Education Fund is
9 created. The fund shall be administered by the State Department of
10 Education and consist of money transferred by the Legislature, federal
11 funds, gifts, grants, bequests, or other contributions or donations from
12 public or private entities that have been accepted by the State Board of
13 Education. The fund shall be used to provide computer science and
14 technology training and support pursuant section 2 of this act. Any money
15 in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
16 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
17 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Any interest earned by the fund
18 shall accrue to the fund.

19 (2)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer one million
20 five hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund for fiscal year
21 2024-25 and for fiscal year 2025-26 to the Computer Science and
22 Technology Education Fund to provide computer science and technology
23 education training and support pursuant to section 2 of this act.

24 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer an additional
25 five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2024-25 and each fiscal
26 year thereafter from the General Fund to the Computer Science and
27 Technology Education Fund contingent upon the receipt of matching private
28 funds of such amount. The State Department of Education shall provide
29 written notification to the State Treasurer relating to the receipt of
30 private funds that would trigger a state match.

31 Sec. 4. Original section 79-3301, Revised Statutes Cumulative

1 Supplement, 2022, is repealed.