

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2329

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla

February 18, 2016

An act relating to school curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2329, as introduced, Bonilla. Computer science curriculum: study.

The California Council on Science and Technology is a nonprofit corporation organized pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code. Existing law provides that the council was established at the request of the Legislature for the specific purpose of offering expert advice to state government on public policy issues significantly related to science and technology. Existing law authorizes school districts that require more than 2 years of mathematics courses for graduation to award mathematics credit for completion of a California State University and University of California approved “category C” computer science course. Existing law requires the California State University and requests the University of California to develop guidelines for high school computer science courses to be approved for purposes of recognition for admission to the California State University and the University of California, respectively, and would encourage the University of California to ensure that computer science courses that satisfy the mathematics subject area requirements for admission build upon fundamental mathematics content provided in courses that align with the academic content standards developed by the Academic Content Standards Commission.

This bill would request that the council undertake and complete a study, and submit the study to the Legislature, by January 1, 2018, analyzing the status and impact of recently enacted laws, as specified. The bill would state that the goal of the study is to help the Legislature, through a data-driven review, understand the needs to advance computer science in California’s high school curriculum and to move forward with policy that increases computer science education opportunities in high school, leading to an increase in the number of computer science degree holders produced by public postsecondary educational institutions in California.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of
 2 the following:
 3 (1) The California Council on Science and Technology was
 4 established by California academic research institutions, including
 5 the University of California, the University of Southern California,
 6 the California Institute of Technology, Stanford University, and
 7 the California State University, and was organized as a nonprofit
 8 corporation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
 9 Code, in response to Assembly Concurrent Resolution 162
 10 (Resolution Chapter 148 of the Statutes of 1988).
 11 (2) The council was uniquely established at the request of the
 12 Legislature for the specific purpose of offering expert advice to
 13 state government on public policy issues significantly related to
 14 science and technology.
 15 (b) The California Council on Science and Technology is hereby
 16 requested to undertake and complete a study, and to submit the
 17 study to the Legislature, by January 1, 2018, analyzing the status
 18 and impact of recently enacted laws that do both of the following:
 19 (1) Authorizes school districts that require more than two years
 20 of mathematics courses for graduation to award mathematics credit
 21 for completion of a California State University and University of
 22 California approved “category C” computer science course.
 23 (2) Requires the California State University and requests the
 24 University of California to develop guidelines for high school
 25 computer science courses to be approved for purposes of

1 recognition for admission to the California State University and
2 the University of California, respectively, and would encourage
3 the University of California to ensure that computer science courses
4 that satisfy the mathematics subject area requirements for
5 admission build upon fundamental mathematics content provided
6 in courses that align with the academic content standards developed
7 by the Academic Content Standards Commission.

8 (c) The goal of the study is to help the Legislature, through a
9 data-driven review, understand the needs to advance computer
10 science in California’s high school curriculum and to move forward
11 with policy that increases computer science education opportunities
12 in high school, leading to an increase in the number of computer
13 science degree holders produced by public postsecondary
14 educational institutions in California.

15 (d) The study is requested to focus on, but not be limited to, the
16 implementation of Assembly Bill 1764 (Chapter 888 of the Statutes
17 of 2014) and Senate Bill 1200 (Chapter 518 of the Statutes of
18 2014), and is requested to include all of the following:

19 (1) The number of schools that require three years of
20 mathematics for graduation requirements.

21 (2) The associated number of schools that have a qualifying
22 computer science course that can satisfy the third year of the
23 mathematics requirement.

24 (3) The number of pupils taking a computer science course
25 identified in paragraph (2).

26 (4) The diversity by gender and ethnicity of those pupils
27 identified in paragraph (3).

28 (5) The number of pupils who took a computer science course
29 identified in paragraph (2), graduated, and went to a postsecondary
30 educational institution.

31 (6) The number of pupils studying or continuing computer
32 science course study at the postsecondary level.