First Look: Computer Science in STEM Act of 2017 (HR 2305, 115th Congress)

Directs the Secretary of Education to award grants to state educational agencies to develop comprehensive plans to strengthen elementary and secondary computer science education

Updated last **March 6, 2018**
for the 05/03/2017 version of HR 2305.

HAL
Humans and Autonomy Lab

WHAT IT DOES

The Computer Science in STEM Act of 2017 requires the Department of Education (ED) to award to states:

1. two-year formula grants to develop comprehensive plans to strengthen elementary and secondary computer-science education, and
2. competitive five-year matching grants to implement the improvements proposed in their comprehensive plans.

Proposed improvements must include:

1. challenging and grade-appropriate academic-content standards for computer science,
2. grade-appropriate assessments of computer-science learning,
3. programs to increase disadvantaged students' access to computer-science courses,
4. computer-science teacher-training programs,
5. improved teacher certification or licensure requirements and processes,
6. programs to ensure that computer-science courses are considered an integral part of the standard secondary school curriculum,
7. effective computer-science curricula, and
8. computer-science distance-learning programs.

States must partner with institutions of higher education (IHEs) and local educational agencies in implementing these improvements.

The bill amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize ED to award five-year grants to IHEs to:

1. develop courses that prepare undergraduate students to teach elementary and secondary school computer science, and
2. develop and fund teacher mentoring programs to support new computer-science teachers.

The bill amends the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 to include informatics and computer-science majors and professionals in the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, which recruits and prepares science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors and professionals to become mathematics and science teachers.

The content for this First Look was authored by the Congressional Research Service.

SPONSORS

Sponsor:

Tony Cardenas [D-CA-29]

Cosponsors:

Jared Polis [D-CO-2]
Derek Kilmer [D-WA-6]
Elizabeth Esty [D-CT-5]

LICENSE