

Date of Hearing: May 3, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 1251 (Luz Rivas) – As Amended April 18, 2023

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 6 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill, contingent on appropriation, requires, by July 1, 2024, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to convene a workgroup on credentialing for instruction in computer science. The workgroup is to determine which teaching credentials, if any, should also authorize a teacher to teach computer science, whether teaching credential in computer science should be established, and make recommendations on how to meet workforce demands for computer science instruction. At least one half of the workgroup is to be current classroom teachers with experience teaching computer science. By July 1, 2025, CTC is to provide a report to the Legislature on the workgroups findings and recommendations.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

One-time General Fund cost to CTC of about \$50,000 to convene the workgroup and report the workgroup's findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, "California is in the process of potentially losing its position as a global leader in technology if we don't provide our students with computer science instructors to teach them coding, programming, and keyboarding skills."
- 2) **Background.** California has three single subject teaching credentials (mathematics, business, and industrial and technology education) which authorize teachers to provide instruction in computer science. CTC issues supplementary authorizations in computer science to teachers holding other credentials which authorizes them to teach computer science. According to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), in the 2016-2017 academic year, 2,273 teachers in California taught core academic computer science courses.

Current law directed the SPI to convene a computer science strategic implementation advisory panel to develop recommendations for a computer science strategic implementation plan, and requires the panel to submit recommendations for a strategic plan to the State Board of Education (SBE) by January 15, 2019. The SBE adopted the California Computer Science Strategic Implementation Plan in May, 2019. The plan states that to grow K-12 computer science education, the state will need to increase the number of teachers qualified to teach computer science. The plan outlines several strategies to increase availability of computer science instruction, including a grant program to support teachers to earn a computer science supplementary authorization.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 672 (Jackson) of this legislative session requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to convene a Teacher Credentialing Task Force by March 1, 2024, to examine various facets of teacher credentialing in California. For example, the task force is to examine available research on factors that enable and constrain recruitment, credentialing, and retention of a diverse teaching workforce; and examine the state's teacher shortage. The bill is pending in this committee.
- 4) **Prior Legislation.** AB 130 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 44, Statutes of 2021, established the Computer Science Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program for the purpose of providing one-time grants to LEAs to support the preparation of credentialed teachers to earn a supplementary authorization in computer science and provide instruction in computer science coursework.

AB 182 (Luz Rivas), of the 2019-20 Legislative Session, was similar to this bill and would have required CTC to establish a workgroup to determine if the development of a single subject computer science credential is warranted and, if so, to consider requirements for that credential. This bill was held in this committee.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Natasha Collins / APPR. / (916) 319-2081