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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

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### **AB 1251 (Luz Rivas) - Teacher credentialing: computer science instruction: workgroup**

**Version:** April 18, 2023

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** June 26, 2023

**Policy Vote:** ED. 7 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), by July 1, 2024, to convene a workgroup on credentialing for computer science education to make recommendations on strategies to meet workforce demands associated with expansion access to computer science instruction, and to report the findings and recommendations of the workgroup to the Legislature.

**Fiscal Impact:** The CTC estimates one-time General Fund costs of about \$50,000 to convene the workgroup and indicates that any cost to report the workgroup's findings and recommendations to the Legislature would be minor and absorbable within existing resources. The bill's provisions would be contingent upon an appropriation.

**Background:** Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to convene a computer science strategic implementation advisory panel (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 plan was adopted in 2019 and includes the following vision statement: "California's vision is to ensure that all students develop foundational knowledge and skills in computer science to prepare them for college, careers, and civic engagement."

This plan notes that "to grow K–12 computer science education in California, the state will need to increase the number of teachers qualified to teach computer science. Supporting more educators to teach computer science would involve a multi-pronged approach that attends to credentialing, new teacher recruitment, professional learning for teachers, administrators, and counselors regarding the California computer science standards, and institutional and financial support." The plan also outlines several strategies for improving the availability of computer science instruction, including establishing a grant program to support teachers to complete coursework for the computer science supplementary authorization, with additional incentives for teachers who work in low-income and underserved school districts and rural and urban school districts.

**Proposed Law:** This bill requires the CTC, on or before July 1, 2024, to convene a workgroup on credentialing for instruction in computer science to do all of the following:

- a) Determine which single subject teaching credentials or designated subjects career technical education teaching credentials, if any, should also authorize teaching computer science;

- b) Determine whether a single subject teaching credential in computer science should be established; and
- c) Make recommendations on strategies to meet the workforce demands associated with expanding access to computer science instruction to all pupils.

This bill requires that at least one-half of the workgroup be composed of current classroom teachers with experience teaching computer science at the secondary level, and to include representatives from school administration, institutions of higher education involved in the preparation of teachers to teach computer science and content experts in the field of computer science education.

This bill requires the CTC, on or before July 1, 2025, to provide a report of the workgroup's findings and recommendations to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature.

This bill provides that the implementation of these requirements contingent upon an appropriation for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute.

**Related Legislation:** AB 672 (Jackson) requires the CTC to convene a Teacher Credentialing Task Force by March 1, 2024, to examine various facets of teacher credentialing in California, including available research on factors that enable and constrain recruitment, credentialing, and retention of a diverse teaching workforce. The bill is pending in the Senate Education Committee.

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