

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of Regents, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Department of Economic Development, to study and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of establishing the Advanced Placement Computer Science course as an equivalent advanced mathematics course for purposes of satisfying high school graduation requirements and for determining student eligibility to receive a Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award.

WHEREAS, computing is a major part of daily life and most occupations and is transforming the way students think about, and interact with, the world; and

WHEREAS, "Computing in the Core", a non-partisan advocacy coalition that strives to elevate computer science in K-12 education, notes that computer programming jobs represent more than half of the jobs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, and projects that by the year 2020 there will be more than one million unfilled jobs in this area; and

WHEREAS, wages in computer programming jobs are approximately seventy-five percent higher than the national median salary; and

WHEREAS, the Advanced Placement Computer Science course introduces students to computer science with topics that include problem solving, design strategies and design methodologies, organization of data, approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing; and

WHEREAS, successful math classes are those that produce students who are able to mathematically model real-life problems and effectively communicate and represent mathematical principles; and

WHEREAS, a report issued by "Transforming Post-Secondary Education in Math" recommends that gateway math courses align with major programs of study and high school graduation requirements and that multiple entry-level math pathways be developed for students; and

WHEREAS, given current high school graduation requirements, and the TOPS core curriculum, many students find it difficult to take a computer science course as an elective.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of Regents, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Department of Economic Development, to study and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of establishing the Advanced Placement Computer Science course as an equivalent advanced mathematics course for purposes of satisfying high school graduation requirements and for determining student eligibility to receive a Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education, the commissioner of higher education, the executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the secretary of the Department of Economic Development.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE