



LFC Requester: Liu

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 02/06 /25

Bill No: HB297

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Gonzales/Sarinana/Mirabal Moya

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SCHOOL PERSONNEL

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Title: LICENSURE

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$250.0	N/A	Nonrecurring	GF

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None.

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 297 (HB297) would amend [Section 22-10A-6 NMSA 1978](#) to establish in statute requirements for a computer science endorsement for teachers. To qualify, educators would be required to demonstrate content knowledge in computer science by:

1. Completing 15 post-secondary course credits in computer science;
2. Passing a department-approved licensure exam in computer science;
3. Having two years of work experience in a computer science-related field;
4. Obtaining an industry certification in a computer science-related field;
5. Completing 60 hours of professional development in computer science within three years before applying for the endorsement; or
6. Having three or more years of experience teaching computer science, validated by a school, school district, or charter school administrator.

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill would appropriate \$250,000 from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY26 and FY27 for professional development for teachers who want a computer science endorsement or want to maintain the endorsement. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2027 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB297 directly targets the ongoing shortage of qualified computer science teachers in New Mexico by enacting in statute the formal computer science endorsement, first adopted by PED rule in 2021. The bill would establish minimum requirements for computer science endorsement in statute, rather than having the requirements established but the PED.

HB297 addresses the need for professional development funding by allocating \$250,000 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to support teachers in obtaining or maintaining their endorsements. This may increase the number of computer science endorsed teachers.

[Code.org](#) indicates that to meet the demand for well-prepared computer science teachers, states should develop multi-pronged approaches to computer science teacher preparation and licensure; HB297, like [6.64.20 NMAC, Competencies for Secondary Computer Science Teachers](#), takes such an approach.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

With the enactment of provisions from the bill, students would be more likely to receive computer science education from an endorsed teacher, which may better prepare them for the demands of the modern workforce and higher education opportunities in technology-related fields.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to [House Bill 157, New School Licenses](#), which proposes several new classes of educational administrator licenses.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The list of potential minimum requirements in the bill do not agree grammatically. Section 1-F (3), (4), and (6) start with nouns, while the others start with verbs. The sponsor may consider adding the word “completed” to provisions 1-F (3), (4), and (6).

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

[Section 22-10A-6 NMSA 1978](#) was last amended in 2021, when the license endorsement in secondary computer science was first created. That amendment (Laws 2021, Chapter 102, Section 1) directed PED to create the license endorsement for teachers who hold a valid license and who demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in computer science, as determined by the department. PED responded by promulgating Rule 6.64.20 NMAC, Competencies for Secondary Computer Science Teachers, at the end of 2021, which included the same six endorsement requirements listed in Section 1(F) of the HB297.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.