LFC Requester:	Sunny Liu

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to **billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov**
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION
{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: *2/10/2025*   *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: *HB 297*   Original __   *X* Correction __
                                     Amendment __   Substitute __

Sponsor:	Reps. Gonzales, Sarinana, Moya	**Agency Name and Code Number**:	University of New Mexico-952
Short Title:	School Personnel Computer Science Licensure	**Person Writing**	Lenaya Montoya
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	**FY26**		
	$250.00	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	**FY26**	**FY27**		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: HB 297 would provide a licensure endorsement in Computer Science for teachers of all grades. Additionally, the bill provides requirements for a teacher to obtain before receiving a computer science licensure endorsement. The bill also provides a $250,000 appropriation for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 from the general fund to the Public Education Department to provide professional development for teachers who want to receive a computer science endorsements.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The largest fiscal implication that UNM's College of Education & Human Sciences (COEHS) could see would be the potential needs for more staff at NMPED to process additional licensure requests so that teachers, and those applying for teacher licensure, could receive this new endorsement.

However, one area not embedded in this bill is that UNM believes an additional course on Instructional Methods in Computer Science should be taught by Colleges or Schools of Education to ensure that the individuals who receive this endorsement don't only have content knowledge of this subject, but also knowledge in how best to instruct this to others. This would involve adding another part time instructor to teach this or a full-time faculty member, who could oversee this licensure area.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Overall, UNM COEHS believes this bill addresses an issue in the state and what is written about what is necessary to obtain an endorsement is within this bill.

We do see one section is that lacking, which is the requirement of a 3 credit Methods course in Computer Science, to ensure whoever is receiving this endorsement does not only have the content knowledge necessary to teach the subject, but also has training from Colleges and Schools of Education in how to best instruct the subject. We know from academic research, as well as practice in schools, that sometimes indiviuals can come with vast amounts of content knowledge in a given field, but without the training and skills in how to instruct it, that content knowledge might not translate to successful outcomes in teaching that material to students.

Additionally, with the growth of AI, we believe that need for programmers will be greatly reduced in the next few years, so computer science courses in schools (especially high school) should be geared to more than just programming, as the field will need to adapt quickly. We believe strong computer science teachers in schools will be integral to respond to this field change, but this also means we should look at the computer science curriculum in K-12 schools, as well as keep a constant vision of what we need to require in the future for this endorsement.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS