

computer science by December 31, 2021. The bill specifies that when developing computer science endorsement requirements, PED consult with computer science education experts with experience in creating or supporting computer science endorsement pathways.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee (HAFC) amendment to House Bill 188 (HB188) removes the \$150 thousand appropriation included in the original bill.

The HAFC substitute for House Bill 2 includes \$3 million dollars from the general fund for science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) initiatives and \$500 thousand from the public education reform fund for the same initiatives. The total \$3.5 million available for STEAM initiatives can be leveraged to cover any costs incurred by the provisions of this bill.

HB188 contains an appropriation of \$150 thousand to the Public Education Department to create a license endorsement for secondary computer science for expenditure in fiscal year 2022. Provisions of this bill specify that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2022 shall revert to the general fund.

If enacted, the department may request funding in subsequent years for staff or upkeep to the program resulting as a recurring effect to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Adding a computer science license endorsement to the list of currently available license endorsements will expand the category of “endorsed teachers” to include those who obtain their computer science endorsement. This may also increase the number of teachers considered as providing service in a high-need or shortage areas, potentially making those teachers eligible candidates for teacher preparation assistance programs that they were not eligible for before.

Adding a computer science license endorsement may increase the number of public school teachers with a computer science or STEM backgrounds and interest, potentially increasing student interest in STEM.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation included in this bill and responsibility of administering the provisions within the bill are assigned to the PED.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not define or specify “sufficient content knowledge,” as it pertains to the computer science endorsement. Neither does it provide any guidance to the department as to what “sufficient content knowledge” should include or entail.