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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: 11 February 11, 2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB297 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor:	<u>Gonzales, Sariñana, Mirabal</u>	Agency Name and Code	<u>NM Independent Community Colleges 994</u>
Short Title:	<u>School Personnel Computer Science Licensure</u>	Person Writing	<u>Vanessa K. Hawker</u>
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
\$250.0	\$250.0	R	GF

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 297 (HB297) changes the requirements for a secondary education teacher to obtain a computer science endorsement. The new requirements include:

- Earning 15 post-secondary credit hours
- Passing a PED approved teacher licensure examination
- Minimum of two years work experience in a computer science related industry
- An industry certification in a computer science related field
- Completed 60 hours of professional development within 3 years prior to applying for the endorsement, or
- Three or more years of computer science teaching experience

HB297 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the public education department for professional development for teachers who want a computer science endorsement.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB297 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the public education department for professional development.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB297 amends the computer science educator endorsement from a secondary educator endorsement to an all grade level endorsement. Code.org, a nonprofit dedicated to computer science teaching at all grade levels, recommends secondary education computer science endorsement, differentiating between elementary and secondary education: <https://code.org/files/TeacherPathwayRecommendations.pdf>

Page 3, lines 18 – 25 and page 4, lines 1 – 16: it is unclear from the draft bill if the intention of the sponsors is to have the individual seeking endorsement complete the first five requirements or the sixth or if the intent is for the individual to complete one of the six listed requirements.

NMICC institutions are supportive of high quality computer science instructors, however, if it is the intent of HB297 for the individual to possess all 6 requirements, this bill could prohibit otherwise high quality computer science teachers from obtaining a computer science endorsement.

Page 3, line 25 and page 4, lines 1 – 2: the requirement for an “industry certification in a field related to computer science” it is unclear if all certifications – such as a Microsoft certification in Word or Excel – will meet the requirements.

Page 4, lines 3 – 8: HB297 requires 60 hours of professional development, it does not specify if the professional development is to be targeted towards computer science.