WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 558

By Senators Oliverio, Boley, Grady, and Woelfel

[Reported February 28, from the Committee on

Education]

1   A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,

2   designated §18-2-9b, relating to requiring public high school students to earn a minimum of

3   one-half unit of credit in a computer science course prior to graduating; defining "computer

4   science"; requiring the computer science course to meet or exceed standards established

5   by the State Board of Education; requiring the course to be offered in person in a traditional

6   classroom setting unless not feasible; providing for alternatives when offering in person in

7   a traditional classroom setting is not feasible; specifying grade levels in which the credit

8   may be earned; requiring State Board of Education rules detailing how computer science

9   can fulfil other graduation requirements; requiring rules to ensure maximum flexibility for

10   students; imposing requirements pertaining to a student's transcript if a student uses a

11   computer science course to fulfil the math or science credit; requiring computer science

12   standards include high school introductory computer science courses that include

13   foundational computer science concepts; requiring State Board of Education make

14   available a list of course options that can meet the requirements for the computer science

15   credit; requiring State Board of Education rules to ensure schools can obtain the

16   necessary teacher capacity to support implementation; and allowing additional rules

17   deemed necessary for implementation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-9b.   Computer   Science   Course.

1   (a) Beginning with the ninth-grade class entering in the 2027-2028 school year, a public

2   high school student shall be required to earn a minimum of one-half unit of credit in a high school

3   computer science course before the student graduates.

4   (b) "Computer science" means the study of computers, programming, and algorithms,

5   including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their implementation, and their

6   impact on society. Computer science does not include the study of everyday uses of computers

7   and computer applications, such as keyboarding, word processing, digital literacy, or accessing

8   the internet.

9   (c) A computer science course offered for high school credit shall meet or exceed the

10   standards established by the state board. The course shall be offered in person in a traditional

11   classroom setting unless it is not feasible for a school district to do so. If offering the course in

12   person in a traditional classroom setting is not feasible, the course may be offered in a blended

13   learning environment or an online-based or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet

14   the needs of each participating student.

15   (d) The minimum one-half high school credit required in this subsection may be earned in

16   grades eight through twelve.

17   (e) The state board shall adopt rules detailing how computer science may fulfil other

18   graduation requirements. The rules shall ensure maximum flexibility for students, including by

19   maximizing the number of computer science course options eligible for graduation credits. If the

20   rules allow a computer science course to fulfill a math credit or a science credit and a student uses

21   a computer science course to fulfil the math or science credit, the school district shall denote that

22   computer science course as equivalent to a high school math course or high school science

23   course, as applicable, on the student's transcript for the purpose of admission to a higher

24   education institution in this state.

25   (f) The state board shall update computer science standards to include high school

26   introductory computer science courses that include foundational computer science concepts.

27   (g) Beginning in August of 2026, the state board shall make available to all public schools a

28   list of course options that can meet the requirements for this credit. The state board shall update

29   the list as often as necessary.

30   (h) The state board shall adopt additional rules to ensure schools can obtain the necessary

31   teacher capacity to support implementation of this section. Such rules shall include flexible options

32   to license computer science teachers, including, but not limited to, an authorization or

33   endorsement.

34   (i) In addition to any rules required by this section, the state board may adopt any other

35   rules it deems necessary to administer this section.