

**SECOND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2466**

As Agreed to March 30, 2022

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2466 would enact the Promoting Advancement in Computing Knowledge (PACK) Act relating to computer science courses in secondary schools; require the survey and establishment of a career technical education pilot program; and exempt national assessment providers from the Student Online Personal Privacy Act.

PACK Act

The PACK Act would require, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each secondary school operated by a school district to offer at least one computer science course, or submit to the State Board of Education (State Board) a plan describing how the district intends to offer a computer science course and in which school year such course will be offered. The bill would require such course to:

- Be high quality;
- Meet or exceed the Kansas Model Standards for Computer Science as established by the State Board; and
- Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning environment, or an online-based or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet the needs of each high school and participating student.

The bill would require the State Board, on or before January 15, 2023, and each January 15 thereafter, to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the progress of the PACK Act. Such report would be required to include, but not be limited to, the following information for the immediately preceding school year:

- Number of secondary schools that offered one or more computer science courses;
- Number of high-quality, professional learning providers that received grants from the State Board under the bill;

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- Number of teachers prepared by high-quality professional learning providers;
- Number of teachers teaching computer science courses compared to number of teachers prepared by learning providers; and
- Number of students reached by high-quality learning providers.

The bill would sunset the reporting requirements on July 1, 2025.

Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program

The Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program (Program) would authorize the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) to provide scholarships, not to exceed \$1,000, to pre-service teachers working towards a degree in elementary or secondary education and to licensed teachers who complete one course in computer science while enrolled in a state educational institution, community college, or certain not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education. The bill would require the KBOR to prioritize for receipt of scholarships those candidates from underrepresented groups and those candidates who agree to teach computer science in rural schools and in schools with higher percentages of students from underrepresented groups. The bill would authorize the KBOR to coordinate with postsecondary educational institutions to develop pathways in computer science education for pre-service teachers to obtain a certification to teach computer science. The bill would require the KBOR to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the Program, including requirements for scholarship eligibility and applications.

State Board of Education Grants

The bill would also authorize the State Board, subject to appropriations, to award grants to high-quality professional learning providers to develop and implement professional development programs for teachers to teach computer science courses. The bill would require such learning providers to submit an application to the State Board for receipt of a grant. If a grant is received, the learning provider would be required to use it for one of the following purposes:

- Providing high-quality professional learning;
- Credentialing for computer science teachers;
- Supporting computer science professional learning;
- Creating resources to support implementation of the bill;
- Student recruitment; and
- Development of teacher preparation programs.

The bill would require any such learning provider that receives a grant to provide an annual report to the State Board to include certain information. The bill would require the State Board to prioritize for the receipt of grants:

- School districts that work in partnership with providers of high-quality professional learning;
- Proposals that describe strategies to enroll female students, students from marginalized racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in computer science, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, students with disabilities, and students who are English language learners; and
- Proposals from rural or urban areas that experience difficulties providing computer science offerings.

Career Technical Education Survey and Pilot Program

The bill would require the Kansas State Department of Education to conduct a survey of high-value credential and standard career and technical education courses offered to students enrolled in public high schools for the purpose of determining the needs for secondary career technical education credentialing. The survey would determine the following:

- Career and technical education pathway courses offered for high school credit;
- Concurrent enrollment partnership and dual enrollment courses offered for high school and college credit;
- What concurrent enrollment partnership and dual enrollment courses are offered by high schools, community colleges, or technical colleges;
- What career and technical education courses are offered by high schools that will not lead to credentialing;
- Number of students with documented accommodations who are not enrolled in a gifted program;
- First-time pass rate of students who have earned approved standard career and technical education credentials in the prior three years;
- First-time pass rate of students who have earned approved high-value credentials in the prior three years;
- Credentials earned in the prior three years and number of students who earned such credentials; and
- Amount paid by school districts for students to take credential exams.

The Kansas State Department of Education would be required to compile the results of said survey and present the results to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education on or before January 15, 2023.

The bill would require that, on or before July 31, 2023, and on each July 31 thereafter, that the State Board review and approve a list of high-value industry-recognized credentials and a list of standard industry-recognized credentials. The bill would require the list be prepared by a

committee established by the State Board that includes representatives from the following organizations:

- Association of Community College Trustees;
- Kansas Technical Education Authority;
- Kansas Technical College Association; and
- Kansas Association of School Boards.

The bill would require the State Board to establish the Secondary Career Technical Education Credentialing and Student Transitioning to Employment Success Pilot Program for the 2023 academic school year that targets high school students with documented accommodations who are not enrolled in a gifted program. For such students located within the Washburn Institute of Technology service area, the following would occur:

- Washburn Institute of Technology would receive a \$20,000 stipend for additional counseling services for eligible students and additional coordination services with participating high schools;
- Participating high schools would receive a \$500 stipend for additional student counseling service and coordination with Washburn Institute of Technology; and
- Participating high schools would be reimbursed for the cost of the credential exam for any participating student who takes a credential exam.

The bill would require a preliminary report from participating school districts and the Washburn Institute of Technology to be presented to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education on or before February 1, 2023. The bill details elements that would be required to be contained within the report.

Student Online Private Protection Act

The bill would also amend the Student Online Personal Protection Act to exclude national assessment providers that administer college and career readiness assessments from the definition of “operator.” The bill would permit a national assessment provider to administer a college and career readiness assessment questionnaire or survey to any student enrolled in grades K-12 without prior written permission from such student’s parent or guardian.

Conference Committee Action

The second Conference Committee agreed to add the contents of HB 2631, as amended by the House Committee of the Whole, to Sub. for HB 2466, as amended by the Senate Committee on Education, with amendments removing the original contents of Section 1 of HB 2631 pertaining to the establishment and operation of a career technical education pilot program and replacing it with new language requiring the Kansas State Department of Education to conduct a survey and establish a career technical education pilot program.

Background

The second Conference Committee agreed to add the contents of HB 2631, as amended by the House Committee of the Whole, to Sub. for HB 2466, as amended by the Senate Committee on Education, with amendments removing the original contents of Section 1 of HB 2631 pertaining to the establishment and operation of a career technical education pilot program and replacing it with new language requiring the Kansas State Department of Education to conduct a survey and establish a career technical education pilot program.

Sub. for HB 2466 (Computer Science)

HB 2466 was introduced by Representative Huebert.

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing on HB 2466, Representative Huebert and representatives of CODE.org, Cornerstone Data, FlagshipKansas.Tech, the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, the KBOR, and Kansas State University testified as **proponents**. Proponents generally discussed the need for Kansas students to be prepared for a workforce that requires computer science skills and the need for Kansas teachers to provide students with such skills. Proponents provided information on jobs within the technology sector that are available for Kansas graduates.

Representatives of the Kansas National Education Association, the Kansas State Department of Education, and the United School Administrators of Kansas testified as **opponents**. Opponents generally stated concerns with provisions in the bill requiring students to pass a computer science course as a requirement for graduation from high school.

Representatives of the Independent College Association and the Kansas Association of School Boards provided neutral testimony.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Chamber, Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Wichita State University. Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas School Superintendents Association. Written-only neutral testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Parent Teacher Association and Game On for Kansas Schools.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Remove provisions requiring students to earn one unit of credit in an approved high school computer science course for graduation from high school;
- Remove provisions appropriating \$1.0 million dollars from the State General Fund to the Kansas State Department of Education for grants to professional learning providers;
- Remove provisions appropriating \$1.0 million dollars from the State General Fund to the KBOR for scholarships for teachers;

- Require the State Board to prepare and submit reports to the Governor and Legislature regarding progress of the PACK Act;
- Establish the Computer Science Pre-service Teacher Educator Program (Program);
- Make licensed teachers eligible for the receipt of scholarships under the Program; and
- Make eligible for the receipt of scholarships under the Program those pre-service or licensed teachers enrolled in certain not-for-profit institutions of higher education.

[*Note:* The Conference Committee retained the House Committee amendments.]

The House Committee recommended a substitute bill be passed.

Senate Committee on Education

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Huebert and a representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards. Proponents generally discussed the need for Kansas students to be prepared for a workforce that requires computer science skills and the need for Kansas teachers to provide students with such skills. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Code.org Advocacy Coalition, FlagshipKansas.Tech, Kansas Chamber of Commerce, Kansas Independent College Association, Kansas State Board of Education, and Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas National Education Association. The opponent generally stated the cause of opposition was the reporting requirement, which is the purview of the State Board rather than the Legislature.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make the required course offerings applicable to all secondary schools rather than solely high schools. [*Note:* The Conference Committee retained this provision.]

Fiscal Information

No updated fiscal note on the substitute bill was available at the time of Senate Committee action.

HB 2631 (Career Technical Education Pilot Program)

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations at the request of Representative Murphy.

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing, representatives of the Education Services Staff Development Association of Central Kansas, Kansas Association of Community Colleges Trustees, Stafford High School, and USD 216 Deerfield provided **proponent** testimony.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Cowley College, the Kansas Association of School Boards, the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns, the State Board, the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, and a private citizen.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Specify reimbursement rates for approved standard career technical education (CTE) credentials and approved high-value CTE credentials. [*Note:* The Conference Committee did not retain this provision];
- Provide reimbursement for assessments for standard CTE credentials exclusively for students with an IEP, 504 plan, or as identified by the discretion of the school district. [*Note:* The Conference Committee did not retain this provision];
- Provide provisions of the bill would only apply to school districts listed in the bill. [*Note:* The Conference Committee did not retain this provision]; and
- Remove provisions providing for transfer of moneys from the State General Fund to fund state aid reimbursement as provided in the bill. [*Note:* The Conference Committee retained this provision.]

House Committee of the Whole

The House Committee amended the bill to remove national assessment providers that administer college and career readiness assessments from the definition of “operator” as listed in the Student Online Personal Protection Act. [*Note:* The Conference Committee retained this amendment. This language was also previously included in Section 2 of HB 2505 as introduced.]

Fiscal Information

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, refers to transfers from the State General Fund. The House Committee removed provisions related to such transfer. An updated fiscal note for the bill, as amended, was not immediately available.

According to the Kansas State Department of Education, there were 1,205 CTE credentials obtained during the 2019-2020 school year and 1,806 CTE credentials obtained during the 2018-2019 school year. The agency does not have an estimate of the cost assessment for each credential obtained.

Education; Promoting Advancement in Computing Knowledge Act; Computer Science Pre-Service Educator Program; computer science; State Board of Education; Kansas Board of Regents; career technical education; school districts; pilot program; Secondary Career Technical Education Credentialing and Student Transitioning to Employment Pilot Program

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