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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1472**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2013 Regular Session**

**By** House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Hansen, Habib, Freeman, and Magendanz)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1            AN ACT Relating to initiatives to improve and expand access to  
2 computer science education; amending RCW 28A.230.097; and creating a  
3 new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6            (a) Through such initiatives as grants for high-demand career and  
7 technical education programs and participation in the Microsoft IT  
8 academy, the state has previously supported K-12 computer science  
9 education;

10           (b) However, even though there were nearly sixty-five thousand  
11 student enrollments in high school computer science courses in the  
12 2011-12 school year, more than half of those enrollments were in  
13 beginning or exploratory courses. Fewer than twelve hundred students  
14 enrolled in AP computer science courses;

15           (c) National studies of K-12 computer science education indicate  
16 that, in part because computer science is not treated as an academic  
17 subject, students may not perceive advanced computer science as  
18 relevant to their future academic or career success;

1 (d) Public institutions of higher education have expanded capacity  
2 to grant certificates and degrees in computer science and related  
3 fields in response to high employer demand and high student demand.  
4 Additional expansion and improvement will be dependent on new  
5 resources, updated equipment, and the availability of expert faculty;

6 (e) Information technology job vacancies exist at all levels of  
7 training and education and across all industries that are critical to  
8 Washington's economy; and

9 (f) Strategies are needed to support additional opportunities for  
10 Washington students to have careers in the innovative, technology-based  
11 or technology-enhanced industries located in our state.

12 (2) Therefore the legislature intends to take additional steps to  
13 improve and expand access to computer science education, particularly  
14 in advanced courses that could prepare students for careers in the  
15 field.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.097 and 2008 c 170 s 202 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall  
19 adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school courses  
20 offered to students in high schools and skill centers. A career and  
21 technical course equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each  
22 school district board of directors shall develop a course equivalency  
23 approval procedure. Boards of directors must approve AP computer  
24 science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science,  
25 and must denote on a student's transcript that AP computer science  
26 qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who take the  
27 course in their senior year. In order for a board to approve AP  
28 computer science as equivalent to high school mathematics, the student  
29 must be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed algebra  
30 II.

31 (2) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to  
32 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school  
33 district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including  
34 graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's  
35 transcript using the equivalent academic high school department  
36 designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as  
37 appropriate. The high school or school district shall also issue and

1 keep record of course completion certificates that demonstrate that the  
2 career and technical courses were successfully completed as needed for  
3 industry certification, college credit, or preapprenticeship, as  
4 applicable. The certificate shall be either part of the student's high  
5 school and beyond plan or the student's culminating project, as  
6 determined by the student. The office of the superintendent of public  
7 instruction shall develop and make available electronic samples of  
8 certificates of course completion.

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