

LFC Requester:	Sunny Liu
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2017 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original **Amendment** _____ **Date** 1/28/17
Correction _____ **Substitute** _____ **Bill No:** SB134

Sponsor: Senator Jacob R. Candelaria **Agency Code:** 924
 Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Short Title: COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR **Person Writing** Matt Pahl
 SCHOOL GRADUATION **Phone:** 470-9909 **Email** Matt.pahl@state.nm.u

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18	FY19		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 134 (SB-134) enables students to use a computer science course to either fulfill graduation requirements for mathematics provided they have demonstrated competency or fulfill graduation requirements for science provided they have demonstrated competency. The bill ensures that students can use the computer science course to count for only one subject but not both (e.g. computer science can't count for both math and science).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications associated with Senate Bill 134 (SB-134).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB134 does not indicate specific computer science course standards that the course aligns to. The PED will need to adopt standards if language remains this way. If there are no corresponding standards, there could be concern as to whether they are rigorous enough to supplant a mathematics or science course, which is both tested and required for graduation.

SB134 allows only students that have shown competency in Math and Science to count computer science to count toward graduation credit requirements in either subject. This important provision ensures students have a strong foundation in Math and Science prior to allowing computer science courses to count toward graduation requirements in those subjects.

According to the Education Commission of the States¹, 14 states require a student to be allowed to fulfill a math, science or foreign language credit for high school graduation by completing a computer science course. In addition, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Texas and Virginia have policies that allow for computer science courses to contribute to a specialized diploma or endorsement.

According to the Education Commission of the States², "Computer science and coding skills are widely recognized as a valuable asset in the current and projected job market. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 37.5% growth from 2012 to 2022 in the 'computer systems design and related services' industry – from 1,620,300 jobs in 2012 to an estimated 2,229,000 jobs in 2022."

¹ <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/18/29/11829.pdf>

² Ibid.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Public Education Department will need to adopt computer science standards or provide significant guidance to ensure appropriate rigor for recognized courses.