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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Huebert
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: January 25, 2022

Subject: HB 2466 – Enacting the Promoting Advancement in Computing Knowledge Act to require computer science courses in high school and as a graduation requirement.

House Bill No. 2466 (HB 2466) would enact the Promoting Advancement in Computing Knowledge Act (Act). The Act would require that beginning in school year 2023-2024 each public high school offer a course in computer science that is high quality, conforms to the state standards for computer science, and is offered an educational format tailored to meet the needs of the students enrolled in the course. Then, beginning in school year 2025-2026, students enrolling in 9th grade that year and each year thereafter would be required to pass a computer science course in order to graduate from high school. The graduation requirement would be subject to accommodations in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 plan, if any. The graduation requirement provision is set to expire on July 1, 2025, which occurs immediately before the graduation requirement would begin to be applied. The Legislature would need to review the graduation requirement again and address the expiration provision if the requirement is to take effect.

Second, HB 2466 appropriates \$1,000,000 to the State Board of Education (State Board) to award grants to high-quality professional learning providers to develop and implement professional development programs in computer science instruction. A "high-quality professional learning provider" is any public or private entity that has successfully designed, implemented, and scaled high-quality professional learning for teachers and is approved or recommended by the State Board as providing high-quality professional learning.

The State Board is directed to prioritize awarding grants to the following: (1) School districts that work in partnership with providers of high-quality professional learning; (2) 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 English language learners; and (3) proposals from rural or urban areas that experience difficulties providing computer science offerings.

Each grant recipient is required to annually report to the State Board the following information: (1) The number of teachers prepared; (2) the number of students reached; (3) the number and percent of students reached disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status; and (4) the number of teachers and school districts that implemented computer science courses versus the number of prepared teachers that attended professional learning.

Finally, HB 2466 appropriates \$1,000,000 to the State Board of Regents to award scholarships of up to \$1,000 to applicants who are preservice teachers earning an education degree and who complete a course in computer science. Scholarship awards should prioritize the recruitment of degree candidates from underrepresented groups and degree candidates who agree to teach computer science in rural schools and schools with higher percentages of students from underrepresented groups. The appropriated moneys can also be used to develop and implement pathways in computer science education to assist preservice teachers in obtaining a certification to teach computer science.

If enacted, HB 2466 would become effective on July 1, 2022.