LFC Requester:	Sunny Liu

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2019 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** X
Correction ___ **Substitute** ___

Date 3/5/19
Bill No: HB341

Sponsor:	Debra M. Sariñana and Abbas Akhil and Jacob R. Candelaria
Short Title:	COMPUTER SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Agency Code: 924
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	**FY20**		
	$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	**FY20**	**FY21**		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		

(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:

This bill is creating the computer science program fund; a grant program providing funding for the professional development of computer science teachers. It appropriates recurring funding of $500.0 from the general fund to be administered by PED.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year **shall not revert** to the general fund.

The bill appropriation does not include funding for grant entities to purchase equipment for computer science programs to be enacted or to support continued professional development for participating teachers.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB341 creates the Computer Science Program Fund and appropriates recurring funds of $500.0 to the PED for the administration of the grants. Entities eligible to receive grants include school districts or state-charter schools; institutions of higher education and regional education cooperatives.

The bill supports the implementation of the newly adopted K-12 computer science standards that take effect on July 1, 2019.

It is not clear how regional educational cooperatives would administer the funds.

The bill does not provide support to design a strategic plan to build capacity for computer science professional learning for teachers within the state.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill calls for award recipients to provide the PED an annual report including the number of teachers and students participating; student demographic information; advanced placement results and number of teachers that implemented computer science versus the number of teachers trained.

The bill does not require any performance results for elementary and middle school students or documentation of gains in computer science content knowledge by teachers as a result of the professional learning.

The bill does not include any implications for entities that do not enact a computer science program after participating in professional development.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS
The bill would require contracts administration from within PED's existing resources.

Computer Science is currently overseen by two different bureaus at the PED. Grades K-8 are overseen by the Math and Science Bureau and grades 9-12 are overseen by the College and Career Readiness Bureau.

The bill does provide funding or directive for PED to evaluate the curriculum to ensure that contents are aligned to state standards.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None known.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill allows funding to community colleges, but requires PED to administer the grant. It is unclear how PED would evaluate competing proposals from K-12 districts and postsecondary institutions.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Limited Career Technical Education (CTE) funding is available through the Carl D. Perkins Act. This CTE funding goes to high schools and postsecondary institutions, and teacher preparation and computer science programs are programs that PED funds from this mechanism. HB341 state funding could be coordinated with these federal funds to maximize the impact.

ALTERNATIVES

None known.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Professional development for teachers to learn computer science would continue to be funded from general education and federal Perkins funds.

AMENDMENTS
None as of 1/29/2019.