

# SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 2397**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 6, 2017

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2397 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill directs the State Board of Education to authorize a computer science education endorsement to the instructional certificate. The endorsement would authorize the holder to teach computer science in all public schools, and would be required to teach computer science in grades 7 through 12 beginning at such time as the State board determines that there is a sufficient number of teachers holding the computer science education endorsement to make the requirement feasible.

The standards established by the State board would require a candidate for the computer science education endorsement to: (1) hold a standard instructional certificate with at least one other teaching endorsement; and (2) provide documentation of the completion of computer science related coursework requirements determined by the State board up to a maximum of 15 credits.

The bill includes a grandfather provision that permits a teacher to be issued a computer science education endorsement upon application to the State Board of Examiners, if the person is teaching computer science within the three years prior to such time as the State board determines to require a computer science education endorsement to teach computer science.

The committee amended the bill to:

- Provide that the computer science education endorsement will be required to teach computer science in grades 7 through 12. The bill as introduced required the endorsement to teach in grades 9-12;
- Eliminate the specific courses required as part of the standards to be established by the State board for the endorsement and instead allow the State board to determine the appropriate computer science related coursework up to a maximum of 15 credits; and
- Clarify that the grandfather provision applies to teachers teaching computer science within the three years prior to such time as the State board determines to require the endorsement to teach computer science.