Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Provide Grants for Professional Development in Computer Science Instruction

(EMERGENCY)
Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the pilot program to provide professional development grants for computer science instruction is established by this resolve as a 2-year pilot program; and

Whereas, the pilot program must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the pilot program may be nearly completed so that a meaningful report can be submitted in time for the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Commissioner of Education to establish pilot program to provide professional development grants for computer science instruction. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Education shall establish a pilot program to award grants for the provision of professional development in computer science instruction for a period of 2 years. The Commissioner of Education may accept donations from outside sources and state and federal funding to accomplish the purposes of this resolve.

Sec. 2. Application. Resolved: That a local education agency may submit an application for grant funds under the pilot program pursuant to section 1. An application must address, but is not limited to, how the agency will:

1. Engage new and existing teachers with minimal or no background in computer science instruction in professional development opportunities in computer science instruction;

2. Use research-based or evidence-based best practices for high-quality professional development;

3. Engage and support historically underrepresented student populations in computer science;

4. Provide teachers with hands-on, inquiry-based practices; and

5. Engage, involve or partner with outside organizations, including but not limited to the business community, nonprofit organizations and private entities.

Sec. 3. Use of funds. Resolved: That a local education agency that receives a grant award during the pilot program under section 1 must use the funds only for high-quality, teacher-developed professional development for prekindergarten to grade 12 computer science pedagogy and content.

Sec. 4. Annual reports. Resolved: That each local education agency that receives a grant under the pilot program under section 1 shall report annually for the duration of the grant to the Department of Education.

Sec. 5. Fund established. Resolved: That the Professional Development Grant Pilot Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund under the Department of Education for the purpose of receiving funds from state, federal and other sources, including donations from private citizens, corporations and entities for the purposes of this resolve. The
department shall distribute any available funds in the fund to support the purposes described in this resolve. Upon distribution of all the funds, the fund is dissolved.

Sec. 6. Report to Legislature. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Education shall submit a report regarding the pilot program pursuant to this resolve and make recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing committee may report out legislation on the subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes a 2-year pilot program to provide grants for professional development in computer science instruction.