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**HOUSE BILL 2509**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Callan, Ybarra, Pettigrew, Corry, Davis, and Hudgins

Read first time 01/15/20. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a computer science grant program;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section;  
3 making an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance  
6 and growing demand of computing skills in both the local and national  
7 job markets. At the same time, research has shown that women have  
8 experienced declining representation in the technology sector.  
9 Furthermore, studies have shown that introducing students, and  
10 especially female students, to computer science in middle school  
11 dramatically increases the students' interest in computer science in  
12 later grades.

13 As such, the legislature intends to create a grant program with  
14 the goal of expanding computer science to reach students earlier in  
15 their education, in particular female students who are currently  
16 underrepresented in computer science courses and opportunities. Doing  
17 so will open the door to innovation to a wider group of students and  
18 will help cultivate a diverse student population that has the skills  
19 to contribute and innovate in our modern economy and society.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
4    establish, develop, and administer a grant program to provide  
5    assistance to districts for the development and growth of middle  
6    school computer science programs and middle school coding programs.

7        (2) In selecting applicants under this program, the office of the  
8    superintendent of public instruction shall prioritize:

9        (a) School districts that have a large percentage of students  
10   that qualify for free and reduced-price meals;

11        (b) School districts that receive funds under Title I, part A of  
12   the federal elementary and secondary education act;

13        (c) Rural school districts;

14        (d) School districts that do not offer computer science courses;  
15   and

16        (e) School districts that do not offer coding courses.

17        (3) Grants awarded under this section may be used for programs  
18   that occur during and outside of regular school hours.

19        (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may  
20   adopt rules for the grant program established under this section.

21        (5) This section expires July 1, 2022.

22        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The sum of five million dollars, or as  
23   much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
24   biennium ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the office of  
25   the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of section  
26   2 of this act.

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