

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to computer coding instruction;
3 amending s. 1004.015, F.S.; requiring the Higher
4 Education Coordinating Council to make recommendations
5 related to computer science instruction; providing
6 requirements for such recommendations; requiring the
7 council to report its findings and recommendations to
8 the Board of Governors of the State University System
9 and the Legislature; providing for expiration of
10 certain council duties; amending s. 1007.2616, F.S.;
11 requiring the Commissioner of Education to develop
12 certain standards and identify certain courses in the
13 Course Code Directory; requiring the Florida Virtual
14 School to offer certain courses identified by the
15 Commissioner of Education and requiring school
16 districts to provide students access to such courses
17 under certain circumstances; requiring the Department
18 of Education to annually report certain information to
19 the Board of Governors and the Legislature; requiring
20 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors,
21 and school districts to develop strategies relating to
22 computer science educator certification and teacher
23 recruitment; providing an appropriation and
24 authorizing a position; providing an effective date.

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26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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28 Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 1004.015, Florida
29 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), and a new subsection
30 (6) is added to that section, to read:

31 1004.015 Higher Education Coordinating Council.—

32 (6) (a) The council shall develop recommendations to
33 prepare students for successful postsecondary education and
34 careers in computer science, information technology, and related
35 fields. In developing the recommendations, the council shall
36 consider policies and practices that are designed to increase
37 access to high-quality educational experiences that help more
38 students obtain careers in these fields.

39 (b) The council's recommendations must identify:

40 1. High school courses in computer science, including
41 computer coding and computer programming, of sufficient rigor
42 that may be used to satisfy specified State University System
43 admissions requirements, including requirements for foreign
44 languages, mathematics, and science.

45 2. Common academic and technical skills needed for
46 students to meet projected labor market demands in computer
47 science, information technology, and related fields in the
48 state.

49 3. How middle and high school students, including
50 underrepresented and nontraditional students, can be encouraged
51 to pursue further studies and careers in computer science,
52 information technology, and related fields.

53 4. Secondary course sequences which prepare students to
54 succeed in postsecondary educational programs in computer
55 science, information technology, and related fields.

56 5. Gaps in current policy, curricula, programs, and
57 practices at the state, school district, and postsecondary level
58 which inhibit students from pursuing advanced studies and
59 careers in computer science, information technology, and related
60 fields.

61 6. Appropriate educator qualifications and computer
62 science pedagogy to maintain technologically current
63 instructional knowledge and practices in teacher preparation
64 programs.

65 7. Common definitions for terms related to computer
66 science, including terms such as "computer coding" and "computer
67 programming," for consistent use across the Florida K-20
68 education system.

69 (c) By December 31, 2017, the council shall report its
70 recommendations to the Board of Governors, the State Board of
71 Education, and the Legislature.

72 (d) This subsection expires July 1, 2018.

73 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1007.2616, Florida
74 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5), and a new subsection
75 (4) is added to that section, to read:

76 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—

77 (4) (a) By June 30, 2017, the commissioner shall develop
78 academic standards for computer science, including standards and

79 benchmarks for computer coding and computer programming, and
80 include in the Course Code Directory high school-level courses
81 which incorporate the standards and prepare students for
82 postsecondary success in computer science, information
83 technology, and related fields.

84 (b) The Florida Virtual School shall offer computer
85 science courses identified in the Course Code Directory. If a
86 school district does not offer an identified course, it must
87 provide students access to the course through the Florida
88 Virtual School or through other means.

89 (c) If a student is enrolled in an identified course that
90 satisfies a foreign language, mathematics, or science admissions
91 requirement for the Florida College System or the State
92 University System, the school district must notify the student
93 that he or she should contact any out-of-state or private
94 postsecondary institution to which the student is applying and
95 inquire whether the course credit satisfies any of the
96 institution's admissions requirements.

97 (d) The Department of Education shall annually report to
98 the Board of Governors and the Legislature:

99 1. The courses identified in the Course Code Directory
100 that meet the academic standards for computer science.

101 2. The number of students, by district, including the
102 Florida Virtual School, who are enrolled in a course identified
103 in the Course Code Directory that meets the academic standards
104 for computer science.

105 3. The number of individuals who hold a valid educator
106 certificate in computer science or a related field.

107 (e) The State Board of Education shall consult with the
108 Board of Governors and school districts to develop strategies
109 for recruiting qualified teachers to provide computer science
110 instruction, updating computer science educator certification
111 requirements, providing appropriate professional development to
112 maintain technologically current instructional knowledge and
113 practices in the school districts, and identifying and
114 streamlining traditional and alternative pathways toward
115 computer science educator certification.

116 Section 3. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of
117 \$79,326 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is
118 appropriated to the Office of K-20 Articulation of the
119 Department of Education, and one full-time equivalent position
120 with associated salary rate is authorized, for the purpose of
121 implementing this act.

122 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.