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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to computer coding instruction;
3 amending s. 1007.2616, F.S.; authorizing high schools
4 to offer student opportunities to take specified
5 computer coding courses by a specified school year;
6 providing that high schools will not be required to
7 offer such courses; requiring the Commissioner of
8 Education to identify the computer coding courses that
9 satisfy two credits of foreign language instruction
10 under certain circumstances; requiring Florida College
11 System institutions and state universities to
12 recognize the credits as foreign language credits;
13 requiring each student and his or her parent to sign a
14 statement acknowledging and accepting that taking a
15 computer coding course as a foreign language may not
16 meet certain out-of-state requirements; requiring the
17 inclusion of certain computer coding courses in the
18 Course Code Directory; authorizing the Florida Virtual
19 School to offer computer coding courses identified in
20 the Course Code Directory; authorizing school
21 districts to provide students access to such courses
22 under certain circumstances; requiring the Department
23 of Education to annually report certain information to
24 the Board of Governors and the Legislature; providing
25 an effective date.

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

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29 Section 1. Present subsection (4) of section 1007.2616,

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30 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5), and a new
31 subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

32 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—

33 (4) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, high schools
34 may, but will not be required to, provide students opportunities
35 to take computer coding courses of sufficient rigor, as
36 identified by the commissioner, such that two credits in such
37 courses and the earning of a related industry certification
38 satisfies two credits of sequential foreign language
39 instruction. Florida College System institutions and state
40 universities must recognize the credits as foreign language
41 credits; however, each student and his or her parent must sign a
42 statement acknowledging and accepting that taking a computer
43 coding course as a foreign language may not meet out-of-state
44 college and university foreign language requirements. Computer
45 coding courses created and identified by the commissioner and
46 computer coding courses taken to earn the related industry
47 certification shall be included in the Course Code Directory.

48 (a) The Florida Virtual School may offer computer coding
49 courses identified in the Course Code Directory. If a school
50 district does not offer an identified course, it may provide
51 students access to the course through the Florida Virtual School
52 or through other means.

53 (b) The Department of Education shall annually report to
54 the Board of Governors and the Legislature:

55 1. The courses identified in the Course Code Directory
56 which meet the academic standards for computer coding.

57 2. The number of students, by district, including students
58 enrolled in the Florida Virtual School, who are enrolled in a

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59 course identified in the Course Code Directory which meets the
60 academic standards for computer coding.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.