

By Senator Brandes

24-00158-17

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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 students opportunities to take specified  
5           computer coding courses beginning with a specified  
6           school year; providing that high schools will not be  
7           required to offer such courses; requiring the  
8           Commissioner of Education to identify the computer  
9           coding courses that satisfy two credits of sequential  
10          foreign language instruction under certain  
11          circumstances; requiring Florida College System  
12          institutions and state universities to recognize the  
13          credits as foreign language credits; requiring each  
14          student and his or her parent to sign a statement that  
15          they acknowledge and accept that a computer coding  
16          course taken as a foreign language may not meet  
17          certain out-of-state requirements; requiring the  
18          inclusion of certain computer coding courses in the  
19          Course Code Directory; authorizing the Florida Virtual  
20          School to offer computer coding courses identified in  
21          the Course Code Directory; authorizing school  
22          districts to provide students with access to such  
23          courses under certain circumstances; requiring the  
24          Department of Education to annually report certain  
25          information to the Board of Governors and the  
26          Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

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30           Section 1. Present subsection (4) of section 1007.2616,  
31           Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5), and a new  
32           subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

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33 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—

34 (4) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, high schools  
35 may, but will not be required to, provide students with  
36 opportunities to take two credits in computer coding courses of  
37 sufficient rigor, as identified by the commissioner, that along  
38 with the earning of a related industry certification satisfies  
39 two credits of sequential foreign language instruction. Florida  
40 College System institutions and state universities must  
41 recognize the credits as foreign language credits; however, each  
42 student and his or her parent must sign a statement that they  
43 acknowledge and accept that a computer coding course taken as a  
44 foreign language may not meet out-of-state college and  
45 university foreign language requirements. Computer coding  
46 courses identified by the commissioner and computer coding  
47 courses taken to earn the related industry certification shall  
48 be included in the Course Code Directory.

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

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

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

58 2. The number of students, by district, including students  
59 enrolled in the Florida Virtual School, who are enrolled in a  
60 course identified in the Course Code Directory which meets the  
61 academic standards for computer coding.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.