

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Education; and Senator Passidomo

576-04118-18

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to computer science instruction;  
3       amending s. 1007.2616, F.S.; providing a definition;  
4       providing requirements for specified instruction  
5       relating to computer science; requiring certain  
6       computer science courses to be included in the Course  
7       Code Directory and published on the Department of  
8       Education's website by a specified date; requiring the  
9       Florida Virtual School to offer certain computer  
10      science courses; requiring school districts to provide  
11      access to computer science courses offered by the  
12      Florida Virtual school or by other means under certain  
13      circumstances; providing funds for school districts to  
14      provide professional development for classroom  
15      teachers; providing Department of Education  
16      responsibilities for the distribution of such funds;  
17      requiring that high school students be provided  
18      opportunities to take certain courses to meet certain  
19      graduation requirements; providing funds for bonuses  
20      for certain classroom teachers; requiring, rather than  
21      authorizing, the State Board of Education to adopt  
22      rules; providing an effective date.

23  
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

25  
26       Section 1. Section 1007.2616, Florida Statutes, is amended  
27 to read:

28       1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—  
29       (1) For the purposes of this section, the term "computer

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30 science” means the study of computers and algorithmic processes,  
31 including their principles, hardware and software designs,  
32 applications, and their impact on society, and includes computer  
33 coding and computer programming.

34 (2) (a) ~~(1)~~ Public schools shall provide students in grades  
35 K-12 opportunities for learning computer science, including, but  
36 not limited to, computer coding and computer programming. Such  
37 opportunities may include coding instruction in elementary  
38 school and middle school and, instruction to develop students’  
39 computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle school, and  
40 must include courses in computer science, ~~computer coding, and~~  
41 ~~computer programming~~ in middle school and high school, including  
42 earning-related industry certifications. Such courses must be  
43 integrated into each school district’s middle and high schools,  
44 including combination schools in which any of grades 6 through  
45 12 are taught.

46 (b) Computer science courses must be identified in the  
47 Course Code Directory and published on the Department of  
48 Education’s website no later than July 1, 2018. Additional  
49 computer science courses may be subsequently identified and  
50 posted on the department’s website.

51 (3) The Florida Virtual School shall offer computer science  
52 courses identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to  
53 paragraph (2) (b). If a school district does not offer an  
54 identified course, the district must provide students access to  
55 the course through the Florida Virtual School or through other  
56 means.

57 (4) (a) Subject to legislative appropriation, a school  
58 district or a consortium of school districts may apply to the

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59 department, in a format prescribed by the department, for  
60 funding to deliver or facilitate training for classroom teachers  
61 to earn an educator certificate in computer science pursuant to  
62 s. 1012.56 or an industry certification associated with a course  
63 identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph  
64 (2) (b). Such funding shall only be used to provide training for  
65 classroom teachers and to pay fees for examinations that lead to  
66 a credential pursuant to this paragraph.

67 (b) Once the department has identified courses in the  
68 Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph (2) (b), the  
69 department shall establish a deadline for submitting  
70 applications. The department shall award funding to school  
71 districts in a manner that allows for an equitable distribution  
72 of funding statewide based on student population.

73 (5) (2) Elementary schools and middle schools may establish  
74 digital classrooms in which students are provided opportunities  
75 to improve digital literacy and competency; to learn digital  
76 skills, such as coding, multiple media presentation, and the  
77 manipulation of multiple digital graphic images; and to earn  
78 digital tool certificates and certifications pursuant to s.  
79 1003.4203 and grade-appropriate, technology-related industry  
80 certifications.

81 (6) (3) High school students must be provided ~~schools may~~  
82 ~~provide students~~ opportunities to take computer science courses  
83 to satisfy high school graduation requirements, including, but  
84 not limited to, the following:

85 (a) High school computer science courses of sufficient  
86 rigor, as identified by the commissioner, such that one credit  
87 in computer science and the earning of related industry

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88 certifications constitute the equivalent of up to one credit of  
89 the mathematics requirement, with the exception of Algebra I or  
90 higher-level mathematics, or up to one credit of the science  
91 requirement, with the exception of Biology I or higher-level  
92 science, for high school graduation. Computer science courses  
93 and technology-related industry certifications that are  
94 identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science  
95 requirements for high school graduation shall be included in the  
96 Course Code Directory.

97 (b) High school computer technology courses in 3D rapid  
98 prototype printing of sufficient rigor, as identified by the  
99 commissioner, such that one or more credits in such courses and  
100 related industry certifications earned may satisfy up to two  
101 credits of mathematics required for high school graduation with  
102 the exception of Algebra I. Computer technology courses in 3D  
103 rapid prototype printing and related industry certifications  
104 that are identified as eligible for meeting mathematics  
105 requirements for high school graduation shall be included in the  
106 Course Code Directory.

107 (7) Subject to legislative appropriation, a classroom  
108 teacher who was evaluated as effective or highly effective  
109 pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the previous school year or who is  
110 newly hired by the district school board and has not been  
111 evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34 must receive a bonus as  
112 follows:

113 (a) If the classroom teacher holds an educator certificate  
114 in computer science pursuant to s. 1012.56 or if he or she has  
115 passed the computer science subject area examination and holds  
116 an adjunct certificate issued by a school district pursuant to

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117 s. 1012.57, he or she shall receive a bonus of \$1,000 after each  
118 year the individual completes teaching a computer science course  
119 identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph  
120 (2) (b) at a public middle, high, or combination school in the  
121 state, for up to 3 years.

122 (b) If the classroom teacher holds an industry  
123 certification associated with a course identified in the Course  
124 Code Directory pursuant to paragraph (2) (b), he or she shall  
125 receive a bonus of \$500 after each year the individual completes  
126 teaching the identified course at a public middle, high, or  
127 combination school in the state, for up to 3 years.

128  
129 A school district shall report a qualifying classroom teacher to  
130 the department by a date and in a format established by the  
131 department. An eligible classroom teacher shall receive his or  
132 her bonus upon completion of the school year in which he or she  
133 taught the course. A teacher may not receive more than one bonus  
134 per year under this subsection.

135 (8) (4) The State Board of Education shall ~~may~~ adopt rules  
136 to administer this section.

137 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.