A bill to be entitled
An act relating to computer science and technology instruction; amending s. 1003.01, F.S.; defining terms; creating s. 1003.4202, F.S.; defining the term "instructional personnel"; requiring public schools to provide computer science instruction conforming to specified requirements; requiring computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications to be identified in the Course Code Directory and published on the Department of Education’s website; authorizing additional computer science courses to be subsequently identified and posted on the department’s website; requiring the Florida Virtual School to offer computer science courses identified in the Course Code Directory; requiring school districts that do not offer an identified course to provide students access to the course through the Florida Virtual School or other means approved by the department; authorizing school districts or consortiums of school districts to apply to the department for funding to deliver or facilitate certain training, subject to appropriation; requiring the funding to be used only for specified purposes; requiring the department to establish an application deadline; requiring the department to award funding in an equitable manner that accounts for the unique needs of small or rural school districts; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; specifying the contents of the report; authorizing
public elementary and middle schools to establish
digital classrooms that provide specified
opportunities; requiring instructional personnel who
meet specified criteria to receive a bonus; specifying
amounts for such bonuses; requiring school districts
to identify and report to the department qualifying
instructional personnel; providing that qualifying
instructional personnel receive the bonus upon
completion of the school year; prohibiting such
instructional personnel from receiving more than one
of certain bonuses per year; authorizing certain funds
that are not disbursed by a specified date to be
carried forward for a specified timeframe; requiring
the State Board of Education to adopt rules; repealing
s. 1007.2616, F.S., relating to computer science and
technology instruction; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (17) and (18) are added to section
1003.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
(17) “Computer science” means the study of computers and
algorithmic processes, including their principles, hardware and
software designs, applications, implementation, and impact on
society, and includes computer coding, computer programming,
computational thinking, robotics, and physical computing.

(18) “Computational thinking” means the thought process
involved in expressing solutions as computational steps or
Section 2. Section 1003.4202, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.4202 Computer science and technology instruction.—

(1) For the purposes of this section, the term “instructional personnel” has the same meaning as in s. 1012.01(2)(a), (b), and (c).

(2)(a) Public schools shall provide computer science instruction in conformity with the following:

1. Each elementary school may provide computer science instruction with the goals of providing a foundation for future computer usage and achieving digital literacy.

2. Each middle school shall provide computer science instruction with the goals of providing a foundation for future computer usage and achieving digital literacy.

3. Each high school shall provide computer science instruction that includes opportunities for students to take courses resulting in computer science-related industry certifications that satisfy the requirements to obtain a standard high school diploma under s. 1003.4282(3).

(b) Computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for obtaining a standard high school diploma must be identified in the Course Code Directory and published on the Department of Education’s website. Additional computer science courses may be subsequently identified and posted on the department’s website.

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

(4)(a) Subject to legislative appropriation, a school district or a consortium of school districts may apply to the department, in a format prescribed by the department, for funding to deliver or facilitate training for instructional personnel to earn an educator certificate in computer science pursuant to s. 1012.56; training for instructional personnel which leads to an industry certification associated with a course identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph (2)(b); or professional development for instructional personnel to provide instruction in computer science. Such funding may be used only to provide training for instructional personnel, to pay fees for examinations that lead to a credential, or to provide professional development, pursuant to this paragraph.

(b) The department shall establish a deadline for school districts or consortia to apply for funding pursuant to paragraph (a). The department shall award funding in an equitable manner that accounts for the unique needs of small or rural school districts.

(c) The department shall prepare and submit a report by December 1 of each year to the Governor, the Cabinet, and the Legislature which details the funding formula and distribution of funds to each school district in the previous fiscal year pursuant to this subsection.

(5) Public elementary schools and public middle schools may
establish digital classrooms in which students are provided opportunities to improve digital literacy and competency; to learn digital skills, such as computer science, multiple media presentation, and the manipulation of multiple digital graphic images; and to earn digital tool certificates and certifications pursuant to s. 1003.4203 and grade-appropriate, technology-related industry certifications.

(6) Subject to legislative appropriation, instructional personnel evaluated as effective or highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the previous school year or instructional personnel who were newly hired by the district school board and have not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34 must receive a bonus as follows:

(a) If the individual holds an educator certificate in computer science pursuant to s. 1012.56 or has passed the computer science subject area examination and holds an adjunct certificate issued by a school district pursuant to s. 1012.57, he or she must receive a bonus of $1,000 after each year he or she completes teaching a computer science course identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph (2)(b) at a public elementary, middle, high, or combination school in this state, for up to 3 years.

(b) If the individual holds an industry certification associated with a course identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph (2)(b), he or she must receive a bonus of $500 after each year he or she completes teaching the identified course at a public elementary, middle, high, or combination school in this state, for up to 3 years.

(c) A school district shall identify and report qualifying
instructional personnel to the department by a date and in a format established by the department. Eligible instructional personnel shall receive the bonus upon completion of the school year in which he or she taught the course but may not receive more than one bonus per year under this subsection.

(7) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, funds allocated for the purpose of this section which are not disbursed by June 30 of the fiscal year in which such funds are allocated may be carried forward for up to 5 years after the effective date of the original appropriation.

(8) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 3. Section 1007.2616, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.