

By Senator Calatayud

38-01832-23

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to computer science instruction in K-  
3       12 public schools; amending s. 1003.01, F.S.; defining  
4       the terms "computational thinking" and "computer  
5       science"; creating s. 1003.4202, F.S.; requiring  
6       computer science courses to be included in the Course  
7       Code Directory and published on the Department of  
8       Education's website; requiring the Florida Virtual  
9       School to offer certain computer science courses;  
10      requiring school districts to provide instruction in  
11      computer science; providing requirements for the  
12      instruction; requiring school districts to provide  
13      students with access to computer science courses  
14      through the Florida Virtual School or by other means  
15      under certain circumstances; requiring high school  
16      students to be provided opportunities to take certain  
17      computer science courses for specified purposes;  
18      authorizing elementary and middle schools to establish  
19      digital classrooms for specified purposes; subject to  
20      legislative appropriation, authorizing school  
21      districts and consortiums of school districts to apply  
22      to the department for funding for specified purposes;  
23      providing requirements for such funding; defining the  
24      term "instructional personnel"; subject to legislative  
25      appropriation, providing for bonuses for certain  
26      instructional personnel; providing requirements for  
27      such bonuses; providing for the carryforward of  
28      certain funds; providing for rulemaking; repealing s.  
29      1007.2616, F.S., relating to computer science and

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30 technology instruction; providing an effective date.

31  
32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33  
34 Section 1. Subsections (18) and (19) are added to section  
35 1003.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

36 1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

37 (18) "Computational thinking" means the thought processes  
38 involved in expressing solutions as computational steps or  
39 algorithms that can be carried out by a computer.

40 (19) "Computer science" means the study of computers and  
41 algorithmic processes, including their principles, hardware and  
42 software designs, applications, implementation, and impact on  
43 society, including, but not limited to, computer coding,  
44 computer programming, and computational thinking.

45 Section 2. Section 1003.4202, Florida Statutes, is created  
46 to read:

47 1003.4202 Computer science instruction in K-12 public  
48 schools.—

49 (1) Computer science courses must be identified in the  
50 Course Code Directory and published on the Department of  
51 Education's website. Additional computer science courses may be  
52 subsequently identified and posted on the Department of  
53 Education's website.

54 (2) (a) The Florida Virtual School shall offer computer  
55 science courses identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant  
56 to subsection (1).

57 (b) School districts shall provide instruction in computer  
58 science as follows:

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59       1. Each public elementary school may provide computer  
60 science instruction with the intent to provide a foundation for  
61 future computer usage, digital literacy, and computer science  
62 instruction.

63       2. Each public middle and high school shall provide  
64 computer science instruction.

65       (c) If a school district does not offer a computer science  
66 course identified in the Course Code Directory, the district  
67 must provide students with access to the course through the  
68 Florida Virtual School or through other means approved by the  
69 department.

70       (d) High school students must be provided opportunities to  
71 take computer science courses that lead to technology-related  
72 industry certifications and satisfy high school graduation  
73 requirements pursuant to s. 1003.4282(3). Computer science  
74 courses and technology-related industry certifications  
75 identified by the Commissioner of Education as eligible to meet  
76 the mathematics or science credit graduation requirement for  
77 high school graduation under s. 1003.4282(3) must be included in  
78 the Course Code Directory.

79       (e) Public elementary and middle schools may establish  
80 digital classrooms where students are provided opportunities to  
81 improve their digital literacy and competency; learn digital  
82 skills, including computer science, multimedia presentations,  
83 and the manipulation of multiple digital graphic images; and  
84 earn CAPE Digital Tool Certificates and CAPE industry  
85 certifications pursuant to s. 1003.4203 and grade-appropriate,  
86 technology-related industry certifications.

87       (3) (a) Subject to legislative appropriation, a school

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88 district or consortium of school districts may apply to the  
89 department, by a date and in a format prescribed by the  
90 department, for funding to deliver or facilitate training for  
91 instructional personnel to earn an educator certificate in  
92 computer science pursuant to s. 1012.56 or a technology-related  
93 industry certification associated with a course identified in  
94 the Course Code Directory pursuant to subsection (1) or for  
95 professional development for instructional personnel to provide  
96 instruction in computer science. Such funding must be used only  
97 to:

98 1. Provide training pursuant to this paragraph for  
99 instructional personnel.

100 2. Pay fees for examinations that lead to a credential for  
101 instructional personnel.

102 3. Provide professional development for instructional  
103 personnel.

104 (b) The department shall establish a deadline for  
105 submitting applications for funding. The department shall award  
106 funding in an equitable manner that accounts for the unique  
107 needs of small or rural school districts.

108 (c) For purposes of this section, the term "instructional  
109 personnel" has the same meaning as in s. 1012.01(2)(a), (b), and  
110 (c).

111 (4) (a) Subject to legislative appropriation, a member of  
112 the instructional personnel who was evaluated as effective or  
113 highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the previous school  
114 year or who is newly hired by the district school board and has  
115 not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34 must receive a bonus  
116 as follows:

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117 1. If the member of the instructional personnel holds an  
118 educator certificate in computer science pursuant to s. 1012.56  
119 or if he or she has passed the computer science subject area  
120 examination and holds an adjunct certificate issued by a school  
121 district pursuant to s. 1012.57, he or she must receive a bonus  
122 of \$1,000 after each year he or she completes teaching a  
123 computer science course identified in the Course Code Directory  
124 pursuant to subsection (1) at a public elementary, middle, high,  
125 or combination school for up to 3 years.

126 2. If the member of the instructional personnel holds an  
127 industry certification associated with a course identified in  
128 the Course Code Directory pursuant to subsection (1), he or she  
129 must receive a bonus of \$500 after each year he or she completes  
130 teaching the identified course at a public elementary, middle,  
131 high, or combination school for up to 3 years.

132 (b) A school district shall report a member of the  
133 instructional personnel who is eligible for a bonus under this  
134 subsection to the department by a date and in a format  
135 established by the department. An eligible member of the  
136 instructional personnel shall receive his or her bonus upon  
137 completion of the school year in which he or she taught the  
138 computer science course. A member of the instructional personnel  
139 may not receive more than one bonus per year under this  
140 subsection.

141 (5) Any unexpended balance of funds appropriated pursuant  
142 to this section shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year  
143 for the same purpose.

144 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
145 administer this section.

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

147 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.