

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to computer coding instruction;
 3 amending s. 1007.01, F.S.; requiring the Articulation
 4 Coordinating Committee to make recommendations related
 5 to computer science instruction; providing
 6 requirements for such recommendations; requiring the
 7 committee to report its findings and recommendations
 8 to the Board of Governors of the State University
 9 System and the Legislature; providing for expiration
 10 of certain committee duties; amending s. 1007.2616,
 11 F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of Education to
 12 develop certain standards and identify certain courses
 13 in the Course Code Directory; requiring the Department
 14 of Education to annually report certain information to
 15 the Board of Governors and the Legislature; requiring
 16 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors,
 17 and school districts to develop strategies relating to
 18 computer science educator certification and teacher
 19 recruitment; providing an effective date.

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

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 23 Section 1. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (3) of
 24 section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, to read:
 25 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of

26 | the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;
 27 | Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

28 | (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
 29 | the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish
 30 | the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make
 31 | recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and
 32 | issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data
 33 | maintained by the K-20 data warehouse, established pursuant to
 34 | ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education Coordination
 35 | Council, the State Board of Education, and the Board of
 36 | Governors. The committee shall consist of two members each
 37 | representing the State University System, the Florida College
 38 | System, public career and technical education, K-12 education,
 39 | and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member
 40 | representing students. The chair shall be elected from the
 41 | membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
 42 | administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

43 | (j) Develop recommendations to prepare students for
 44 | successful postsecondary education and careers in computer
 45 | science, information technology, and related fields. In
 46 | developing the recommendations, the council shall consider
 47 | policies and practices that are designed to increase access to
 48 | high-quality educational experiences that help more students
 49 | obtain careers in these fields.

50 | 1. The committee's recommendations must identify:

51 a. High school courses in computer science, including
52 computer coding and computer programming, identified by
53 university faculty as having sufficient rigor that they may be
54 used to satisfy specified State University System admissions
55 requirements, including requirements for mathematics and
56 science.

57 b. Common academic and technical skills needed for
58 students to meet projected labor market demands in computer
59 science, information technology, and related fields in the
60 state.

61 c. How middle and high school students, including
62 underrepresented and nontraditional students, can be encouraged
63 to pursue further studies and careers in computer science,
64 information technology, and related fields.

65 d. Secondary course sequences which prepare students to
66 succeed in postsecondary educational programs in computer
67 science, information technology, and related fields.

68 e. Gaps in current policy, curricula, programs, and
69 practices at the state, school district, and postsecondary level
70 which inhibit students from pursuing advanced studies and
71 careers in computer science, information technology, and related
72 fields.

73 f. Appropriate educator qualifications and computer
74 science pedagogy to maintain technologically current
75 instructional knowledge and practices in teacher preparation

76 | programs.

77 | g. Common definitions for terms related to computer
 78 | science, including terms such as "computer coding" and "computer
 79 | programming," for consistent use across the Florida K-20
 80 | education system.

81 | 2. By December 31, 2018, the committee shall report its
 82 | recommendations to the Board of Governors, the State Board of
 83 | Education, and the Legislature.

84 | 3. This paragraph expires January 1, 2019.

85 | Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1007.2616, Florida
 86 | Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5), respectively, and
 87 | subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

88 | 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—

89 | (4) (a) By June 30, 2018, the commissioner shall include in
 90 | the Course Code Directory high school-level courses which
 91 | incorporate computer science standards and prepare students for
 92 | postsecondary success in computer science, information
 93 | technology, and related fields.

94 | (b) If a student is enrolled in an identified course that
 95 | satisfies a mathematics or science admissions requirement for
 96 | the Florida College System or the State University System, the
 97 | school district must notify the student that he or she should
 98 | contact any out-of-state or private postsecondary institution to
 99 | which the student is applying and inquire whether the course
 100 | credit satisfies any of the institution's admissions

101 requirements.

102 (d) The Department of Education shall annually report to
103 the Board of Governors and the Legislature:

104 1. The courses identified in the Course Code Directory
105 that meet the academic standards for computer science.

106 2. The number of students, by district, including the
107 Florida Virtual School, who are enrolled in a course identified
108 in the Course Code Directory that meets the academic standards
109 for computer science.

110 3. The number of individuals who hold a valid educator
111 certificate in computer science or a related field.

112 (e) The State Board of Education shall consult with the
113 Board of Governors and school districts to develop strategies
114 for recruiting qualified teachers to provide computer science
115 instruction, updating computer science educator certification
116 requirements, providing appropriate professional development to
117 maintain technologically current instructional knowledge and
118 practices in the school districts, and identifying and
119 streamlining traditional and alternative pathways toward
120 computer science educator certification.

121 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.