

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  
 30 technology instruction; providing an effective date.

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

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 34 Section 1. Subsections (17) and (18) are added to section  
 35 1003.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

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

37 (17) "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 (18) "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:

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 that are  
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  
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 shall only be used  
97 to:

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

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

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)-(c).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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