

SENATE BILL 980

F1, S2

4lr2714

By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Computer Science – Content Standards and Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring public high schools to promote and increase the enrollment
4 of certain students in high school computer science courses; requiring, beginning on
5 or before a certain date, the State Board of Education to update computer science
6 content standards to include certain information; requiring county boards of
7 education to provide certain computer science instruction in public elementary and
8 middle schools in the county; and generally relating to content standards and
9 requirements for computer science instruction in public schools in the State.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 4–111.4
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Education**

18 4–111.4.

19 (a) **(1)** [Beginning in the 2021–2022 school year, each] **EACH** county board
20 shall require each public high school in the county to offer at least one computer science
21 course.

22 **(2) EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SHALL MAKE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE**
23 **AND INCREASE THE ENROLLMENT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES TO STUDENTS**
24 **OF ETHNIC, RACIAL, AND OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS THAT ARE**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE TO REFLECT THE**
2 **DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF THE SCHOOL TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE.**

3 (b) (1) The computer science course **OFFERED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF**
4 **THIS SECTION** shall be of high quality and meet or exceed the curriculum standards and
5 requirements established by the State Board **IN THE MARYLAND K–12 COMPUTER**
6 **SCIENCE STANDARDS.**

7 (2) **ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2025, AND EVERY 3 YEARS THEREAFTER,**
8 **THE STATE BOARD SHALL UPDATE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE CONTENT STANDARDS**
9 **AND FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE THAT INSTRUCTION IS CONSISTENT WITH RECENT**
10 **ADVANCES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, INCLUDING:**

11 (I) **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE; AND**

12 (II) **CYBERSECURITY.**

13 (c) (1) [The] **BEGINNING IN THE 2027–2028 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH** county
14 board shall [make efforts to:

15 (1) Incorporate] **REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE**
16 **SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE** instruction
17 in computer science [in each public elementary and middle school in the county; and

18 (2) Increase the enrollment in middle and high school computer science
19 courses of:

20 (i) Female students;

21 (ii) Students with disabilities; and

22 (iii) Students of ethnic, racial, and other demographic groups that are
23 underrepresented in the field of computer science as identified by the U.S. Equal
24 Employment Opportunity Commission].

25 (2) **THE INSTRUCTION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE PROVIDED UNDER**
26 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ALIGNED TO THE STATE CONTENT**
27 **STANDARDS FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION FOR GRADES 9 THROUGH 12**
28 **TO:**

29 (I) **INCREASE THE ENROLLMENT IN HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER**
30 **SCIENCE COURSES; AND**

31 (II) **PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE PREPARATION AND SUPPORT**

1 TO STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE-RELATED
2 COURSES IN A POST-CCR PATHWAY.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2024.