

1 H.413

2 Introduced by Representative Toof of St. Albans Town

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; course of study; computer science education

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
7 Agency of Education to develop and adopt computer science education  
8 standards for middle and secondary schools, establish the Computer Science  
9 Education Task Force to develop a statewide strategic plan for expanding  
10 computer science education in elementary and secondary schools, and  
11 administer the Computer Science Teaching Endorsement Grant Program to  
12 support teachers adding a computer science teaching endorsement to a current  
13 teaching license. This bill also proposes to require the Agency of Education to  
14 issue a written report on the efficacy of establishing a formal State virtual  
15 kindergarten through grade 12 school.

16 An act relating to computer science education in public schools

17 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

18 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 914 is added to read:

19 § 914. COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

1       (a) The State Board of Education shall develop and adopt computer science  
2       education standards for middle and secondary schools.

3       (b) Each secondary school shall offer at least one computer science course  
4       in accordance with standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

5       Schools may offer computer science courses through the Vermont Virtual  
6       Learning Cooperative or other remote learning platforms.

7       (c) Each middle school shall offer a computer science exploratory program  
8       in accordance with standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

9       Schools may offer computer science exploratory programs through the  
10       Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative or other remote learning platforms.

11       (d) The Secretary shall establish a Computer Science Education Task Force  
12       to develop a statewide strategic plan for expanding computer science education  
13       in middle and secondary schools. The Task Force shall assist the Agency to  
14       plan, coordinate, and encourage computer science education in public schools  
15       and shall meet not less than twice a year.

16       Sec. 2. COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHING ENDORSEMENT GRANT  
17       PROGRAM

18       (a) There is created the Computer Science Teaching Endorsement Grant  
19       Program to support teachers adding a computer science teaching endorsement  
20       to a current teaching license. Supervisory unions may apply, on an application  
21       developed by the Agency, for a grant to be used for professional development

1 programming related to computer science education. Supervisory unions are  
2 encouraged to partner with postsecondary schools to provide the grant funded  
3 programming.

4 (b) The Agency of Education shall adopt policies, procedures, and  
5 guidelines necessary for implementation of the program established pursuant to  
6 this section.

7 Sec. 3. STATEWIDE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

8 On or before January 15, 2024, the Agency of Education shall issue a  
9 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education on the  
10 efficacy of establishing a formal State virtual kindergarten through grade 12  
11 school that would satisfy all purposes of school attendance, eliminating the  
12 need for students to enroll in a local school.

13 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.