

By Senator Ring

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to computer coding instruction;
3 amending s. 1007.2616, F.S.; requiring high schools to
4 offer computer coding courses; requiring the
5 Commissioner of Education to identify the computer
6 coding courses that may satisfy two credits of foreign
7 language instruction under certain circumstances;
8 requiring the inclusion of certain computer coding
9 courses in the Course Code Directory; amending s.
10 1009.531, F.S.; requiring a student to earn two
11 credits in certain computer coding courses in order to
12 be eligible for an initial award under the Florida
13 Bright Futures Scholarship Program; requiring each
14 district school board to submit a plan for a computer
15 coding curriculum to the commissioner and the
16 Legislature by a specified date; providing an
17 effective date.

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

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21 Section 1. Present subsection (4) of section 1007.2616,
22 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5), and a new
23 subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

24 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—
25 (4) High schools must provide students opportunities to
26 take computer coding courses of sufficient rigor, as identified
27 by the commissioner, such that two credits in such courses and
28 the earning of a related industry certification may satisfy two
29 credits of sequential foreign language instruction. Computer

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30 coding courses identified by the commissioner and computer
31 coding courses taken to earn the related industry certification
32 shall be included in the Course Code Directory.

33 Section 2. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of
34 section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, to read:

35 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
36 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.-

37 (1) In order to be eligible for an initial award from any
38 of the three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright
39 Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

40 (g) Earn two credits in computer coding courses which meet
41 the requirements of s. 1007.2616(4).

42 Section 3. Each district school board shall develop a plan
43 for a computer coding curriculum and must submit its plan to the
44 Commissioner of Education, the President of the Senate, and the
45 Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2017.

46 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.