

CS/HB 265

2017

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 develop recommendations
5 related 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, the State Board of Education, and the
10 Legislature by a specified date; providing for future
11 expiration of certain committee duties; amending s.
12 1007.2616, F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of
13 Education to include certain courses in the Course
14 Code Directory; requiring a school district to notify
15 students if enrolled in any such courses; requiring
16 the Department of Education to annually report certain
17 information to the Board of Governors and the
18 Legislature; requiring the State Board of Education,
19 in consultation with the Board of Governors and school
20 districts, to develop strategies relating to computer
21 science educator certification requirements and
22 teacher recruitment; providing an effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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CS/HB 265

2017

26 Section 1. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (3) of
27 section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

28 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of
29 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;
30 Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

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

46 (j) Develop recommendations to prepare students for
47 successful postsecondary education and careers in computer
48 science, information technology, and related fields. In
49 developing the recommendations, the committee shall consider
50 policies and practices that are designed to increase access to

51 high-quality educational experiences that help more students
52 obtain careers in such fields.

53 1. The committee's recommendations must identify:

54 a. High school courses in computer science, including
55 computer coding and computer programming, identified by
56 university faculty as having sufficient rigor that satisfies
57 specified State University System admissions requirements,
58 including requirements for mathematics and science.

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

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

67 d. Secondary course sequences that prepare students to
68 succeed in postsecondary educational programs in computer
69 science, information technology, and related fields.

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

75 f. Appropriate educator qualifications and computer

CS/HB 265

2017

76 science pedagogy to maintain technologically current
77 instructional knowledge and practices in teacher preparation
78 programs.

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

83 2. By December 31, 2018, the committee shall report its
84 recommendations to the Board of Governors of the State
85 University System, the State Board of Education, and the
86 Legislature.

87 3. This paragraph expires January 1, 2019.

88 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1007.2616, Florida
89 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5), and a new subsection
90 (4) is added to that section to read:

91 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—

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

97 (b) If a student is enrolled in an identified course that
98 satisfies a mathematics or science admissions requirement for
99 the Florida College System or the State University System, the
100 school district must notify the student that he or she should

101 contact any out-of-state or private postsecondary institution to
102 which the student is applying and inquire whether the course
103 credit satisfies any of the institution's admissions
104 requirements.

105 (c) The Department of Education shall annually report to
106 the Board of Governors and the Legislature:

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

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

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

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

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