

By Senator Brandes

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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.; authorizing, but not
4 requiring, high schools to offer students
5 opportunities to take specified computer coding
6 courses beginning with a specified school year;
7 requiring the Commissioner of Education to identify
8 such courses that satisfy two credits of sequential
9 foreign language instruction under certain
10 circumstances; requiring Florida College System
11 institutions and state universities to recognize the
12 credits as foreign language credits; requiring each
13 student and his or her parent to sign a specified
14 statement; requiring the inclusion of certain computer
15 coding courses in the Course Code Directory;
16 authorizing the Florida Virtual School to offer
17 computer coding courses identified in the Course Code
18 Directory; requiring the Department of Education to
19 annually report certain information to the Board of
20 Governors and the Legislature; providing an effective
21 date.

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

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

28 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—
29 (4) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, high schools

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30 may, but will not be required to, provide students with
31 opportunities to take two credits in computer coding courses of
32 sufficient rigor, as identified by the commissioner, that along
33 with the earning of a related industry certification satisfy two
34 credits of sequential foreign language instruction. Florida
35 College System institutions and state universities must
36 recognize the credits as foreign language credits; however, each
37 student and his or her parent must sign a statement that they
38 acknowledge and accept that a computer coding course taken as a
39 foreign language may not meet out-of-state college and
40 university foreign language requirements. Computer coding
41 courses identified by the commissioner and computer coding
42 courses taken to earn the related industry certification shall
43 be included in the Course Code Directory.

44 (a) The Florida Virtual School may offer computer coding
45 courses identified in the Course Code Directory. If a school
46 district does not offer an identified course, it may provide
47 students with access to the course through the Florida Virtual
48 School or through other means.

49 (b) The Department of Education shall annually report to
50 the Board of Governors and the Legislature:

51 1. The courses identified in the Course Code Directory
52 which meet the academic standards for computer coding; and

53 2. The number of students, by district, including students
54 enrolled in the Florida Virtual School, who are enrolled in a
55 course identified in the Course Code Directory which meets the
56 academic standards for computer coding.

57 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.