A bill to be entitled
An act relating to digital learning; amending s. 1002.321, F.S.; revising legislative findings to include digital devices and home-based Internet connectivity in infrastructure as necessary for a high-quality digital learning environment; requiring each school district to adopt a digital learning plan; specifying the requirements for such plan; requiring school districts to submit plans to the Department of Education by a certain date in a format prescribed by the department; requiring the department to develop one or more state term contracts for a specified purpose; amending ss. 1003.01 and 1003.499, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsections (3) through (6) of section 1002.321, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4) through (7), respectively, a new subsection (3) and subsection (8) are added to that section, and paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of that section is amended, to read:

1002.321 Digital learning.—

(2) ELEMENTS OF HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL LEARNING.—The Legislature finds that each student should have access to a high-quality digital learning environment that provides:

(i) Infrastructure, including digital devices and home-based Internet connectivity, that supports digital learning.
(3) DIGITAL LEARNING PLAN.—Each school district shall adopt a digital learning plan.
   (a) The plan must include the following:
      1. Identification of the number of low-income students without access to a digital device that meets the specifications of the district school board.
      2. Identification of the number of low-income students without high-speed broadband Internet connectivity at home.
      3. Provision of laptops or tablets and Wi-Fi access points or other Internet connectivity support to students identified in subparagraphs 1. and 2.
      4. A list of training for teachers and parents of students who need digital literacy support.
   (b) By October 1, 2021, and by March 1 of each year thereafter, on a date determined by the department, each district school board shall submit its plan to the department in a format prescribed by the department.

(8) STATE CONTRACT.—The department shall develop one or more state term contracts to be used by school districts in acquiring digital devices.

Section 2. Subsection (14) of section 1003.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
    (14) “Core-curricula courses” means:
       (a) Courses in language arts/reading, mathematics, social studies, and science in prekindergarten through grade 3, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to subsection (15);
       (b) Courses in grades 4 through 8 in subjects that are measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses
required for middle school promotion, excluding extracurricular
courses pursuant to subsection (15);

(c) Courses in grades 9 through 12 in subjects that are
measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses that
are specifically identified by name in statute as required for
high school graduation and that are not measured by state
assessment, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to
subsection (15);

(d) Exceptional student education courses; and

(e) English for Speakers of Other Languages courses.

The term is limited in meaning and used for the sole purpose of
designating classes that are subject to the maximum class size
requirements established in s. 1, Art. IX of the State
Constitution. This term does not include courses offered under
ss. 1002.321(5)(e), 1002.321(4)(e), 1002.33(7)(a)2.b.,
1002.37, 1002.45, and 1003.499.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1003.499, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.499 Florida Approved Courses and Tests (FACT)

Initiative.—

(2) FLORIDA APPROVED COURSES.—The Department of Education
shall annually publish online a list of providers approved to
offer Florida approved courses which shall be listed in the
online catalog pursuant to s. 1002.321(7) a. 1002.321(6).

(a) As used in this section, the term “Florida approved
courses” means online courses provided by individuals which
include, but are not limited to, massive open online courses or
remedial education associated with the courses that are measured
pursuant to s. 1008.22. Massive open online courses may be authorized in the following subject areas: Algebra I, biology, geometry, and civics. Courses may be applied toward requirements for promotion or graduation in whole, in subparts, or in a combination of whole and subparts. A student may not be required to repeat subparts that are satisfactorily completed.

(b) A Florida approved course must be annually identified, approved, published, and shared for consideration by interested students and school districts. The Commissioner of Education shall approve each Florida approved course for application in K-12 public schools in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.