1 State of Arkansas

A Bill

2 93rd General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2021   HOUSE BILL 1232

4

5 By: Representative Tollett

6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

9 PATHWAY ACT OF 2021; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

10

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Subtitle

13 TO CREATE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

14 PATHWAY ACT OF 2021.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 53, Subchapter 1, is amended

20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21   6-53-108. Computer science course — Instructor requirements.

22   (a) A computer science course offered under this section shall be

23 considered a career and technical education course.

24   (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a technical college that

25 is part of the Arkansas Technical and Community College System under § 6-53-

26 301 shall:

27   (1) Offer a:

28   (A)(i) Career and technical computer science pathway that

29 leads to a technical certificate.

30   (ii) A technical college under this subsection shall

31 communicate to enrolled students on an annual basis the availability of:

32   (a) The career and technical computer science

33 pathway that leads to the technical certificate required by subdivision

34 (b)(1)(A)(i) of this section; and

35   (b) Any other computer science pathways within

36 higher education.

1   (iii)(a) The career and technical computer science
2 pathway that leads to the technical certificate required by subdivision
3 (b)(1)(A)(i) of this section shall be made available to public school
4 students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) who attend public school within
5 the boundaries of the district assigned to the technical college by the
6 Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
7   (b) The career and technical computer science
8 pathway that leads to the technical certificate required by subdivision
9 (b)(1)(A)(i) of this section may be offered as an endorsed concurrent
10 enrollment course as defined by § 6-16-1202 to a public school student in
11 grades nine through twelve (9-12) who enrolls in the career and technical
12 computer science pathway; and
13   (B) Computer science course for public school students in
14 grades seven (7) and eight (8) who attend public school within the boundaries
15 of the district assigned to the technical college by the Arkansas Higher
16 Education Coordinating Board; and
17   (2) Establish an advisory panel comprised of superintendents for
18 consultation on the career and technical computer science pathway that leads
19 to the technical certificate and computer science courses required under
20 subsection (b)(1) of this section.
21   (c) A computer science course offered by a technical college under
22 subsection (a) of this section shall:
23   (1) Be of high quality;
24   (2) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements
25 established by the State Board of Education; and
26   (3) Be made available in at least one (1) of the following
27 settings without limitation:
28   (A) A traditional classroom setting;
29   (B) A blended-learning environment;
30   (C) An online-based setting; or
31   (D) Any other technology-based format that is tailored to
32 meet the needs of each participating student.
33   (d) By the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, a technical college
34 that is part of the system under § 6-53-301 shall employ two (2) computer
35 science teachers who hold a teaching license approved by the state board.
36   (e) The state board may adopt rules to administer this section.

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2   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 10, is

3   amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

4   6-13-1032. Computer science course — Instructor requirements.

5   (a) A computer science course offered under this section shall be

6   considered a career and technical education course.

7   (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Virtual Arkansas,

8   through the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative, shall offer a:

9   (1) Computer science course for public school students in grades

10   seven (7) and eight (8) who are enrolled in Virtual Arkansas, through the

11   Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative; and

12   (2) Career and technical computer science pathway that leads to

13   a technical certificate for students in grades nine through twelve (9-12).

14   (c) A computer science course offered by Virtual Arkansas, through the

15   Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative, under subsection (b) of this section

16   shall:

17   (1) Be of high quality;

18   (2) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements

19   established by the State Board of Education; and

20   (3) Be made available in at least one (1) of the following

21   settings without limitation:

22   (A) An online-based setting; or

23   (B) Any other technology-based format that is tailored to

24   meet the needs of each participating student.

25   (d) By the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, Virtual Arkansas,

26   through the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative, shall employ four (4)

27   computer science teachers who hold a teaching license approved by the state

28   board.

29   (e) The state board may adopt rules to administer this section.

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31   SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-16-147, concerning required computer

32   science courses at the high school level, is amended to add an additional

33   subsection to read as follows:

34   (c)(1) A computer science course may be offered to students in grades

35   seven (7) and eight (8).

36   (2)(A) A public school that offers a computer science course

1   under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be eligible to receive a grant

2   for start-up equipment from the Division of Career and Technical Education.

3   (B)   The division shall determine the qualification

4   requirements and funding amounts for a grant provided under subdivision

5   (c)(2)(A) of this section.

6   (C)   Public schools may offer their own computer science

7   program of study.

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