General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 957

SB00957APP   052819

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM, PROGRAMS OF TEACHER PREPARATION AND ALTERNATE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS AND THE CREATION OF AN ADJUNCT COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR PERMIT AND A COMPUTER SCIENCE ENDORSEMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1   Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes is
2   repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3   *1, 2019*):

4   (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
5   include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
6   qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
7   health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
8   development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
9   resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
10   16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
11   limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
12   performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
13   cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health,
14   physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide
15   prevention, substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating
16   to opioid use and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe

17 use of social media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the
18 dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts,
19 including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling;
20 mathematics; physical education; science, which may include the
21 climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section;
22 social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics,
23 geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide
24 education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section
25 10-18f; computer science, including, but not limited to, computer
26 programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary
27 level, one or more world languages and vocational education. For
28 purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include American
29 Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified
30 instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate
31 issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this
32 subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts,
33 which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
36 *1, 2019*):

37 (d) On and after July 1, **[**1998**]** 2019, any **[**candidate in a**]** program of
38 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall **[**complete
39 a**]** include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in computer science,
40 and other information technology skills, **[**component of such program,**]**
41 as applied to student learning and classroom instruction,
42 communications, **[**and**]** data management, programming and coding.

43 Sec. 3. Section 10-155d of the general statutes is repealed and the
44 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

45 (a) The Office of Higher Education shall encourage and support
46 experimentation and research in the preparation of teachers for public
47 elementary and secondary schools. To help fulfill the purposes of this
48 section, the Office of Higher Education shall appoint an advisory

49 council composed of qualified professionals which shall render
50 assistance and advice to the office. In carrying out its activities
51 pursuant to this section, the office shall consult with the State Board of
52 Education and such other agencies as it deems appropriate to assure
53 coordination of all activities of the state relating to the preparation of
54 teachers for public elementary and secondary schools.

55 (b) The Office of Higher Education, with the approval of the
56 Commissioner of Education, shall expand, within available
57 appropriations, participation in its summer alternate route to
58 certification program and its weekend and evening alternate route to
59 certification program. The office shall expand the weekend and
60 evening program for participants seeking certification in a subject
61 shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b. The office, in collaboration
62 with the Department of Education, shall develop (1) a regional
63 alternate route to certification program targeted to the subject shortage
64 areas, **[**and**]** (2) an alternate route to certification program for former
65 teachers whose certificates have expired and who are interested in
66 resuming their teaching careers, and (3) an alternate route to
67 certification program targeted for computer science teachers.

68 (c) The Office of Higher Education, in consultation with the
69 Department of Education, shall develop alternate route to certification
70 programs for (1) school administrators and superintendents, **[**and**]** (2)
71 early childhood education teachers, and (3) computer science teachers.
72 The programs shall include mentored apprenticeships and criteria for
73 admission to the programs.

74 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) The State Board of
75 Education, upon the request of a local or regional board of education
76 or a regional educational service center, may issue an adjunct
77 computer science instructor permit to any applicant with specialized
78 training, experience or expertise in computer science. Such permit shall
79 authorize a person to hold a part-time position as a teacher of
80 computer science. Such applicant shall (1) hold a bachelor's degree
81 from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of

82   Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or
83   regionally accredited, (2) have a minimum of three years of work
84   experience in computer science, or one year of work experience and
85   two years of specialized schooling related to computer science, and (3)
86   achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of
87   Education approved subject area assessment.

88   (b) During the period of employment as a computer science
89   instructor, any person holding an adjunct computer science instructor
90   permit shall be under the supervision of the superintendent of schools
91   or of a principal, administrator or supervisor designated by such
92   superintendent who shall regularly observe, guide and evaluate the
93   performance of assigned duties by such holder of an adjunct computer
94   science instructor permit.

95   (c) Each adjunct computer science instructor permit shall be valid
96   for three years and may be renewed by the Commissioner of
97   Education for good cause upon the request of the superintendent of
98   schools for the district employing such person or the regional
99   educational service center employing such person.

100 (d) Any board of education or regional educational service center
101 employing a person who holds an adjunct computer science instructor
102 permit issued under this section shall provide a program to assist each
103 such person. Such program, developed in consultation with the
104 Department of Education, shall include academic and classroom
105 support service components.

106 (e) No person holding an adjunct computer science instructor
107 permit shall fill a position that will result in the displacement of any
108 person holding a teaching certificate under section 10-145b of the
109 general statutes who is already employed at such school.

110 (f) Any person holding an adjunct computer science instructor
111 permit pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to be eligible for
112 membership in the teachers' retirement system solely by reason of such

113 permit, provided any such person who holds a regular teacher's
114 certificate issued by the State Board of Education shall not be excluded
115 from membership in said system.

116 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is
117 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
118 *1, 2019*):

119 (e) **[**The**]** Not later than July 1, 2020, the State Board of Education
120 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to provide
121 standards for the certification of computer science teachers. Such
122 regulations shall create a computer science endorsement and make
123 provision for certification requirements to be met by either (1)
124 completion of prescribed courses of study, or (2) such other experience
125 as the state board shall deem appropriate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2019*	10-16b(a)
Sec. 2	*July 1, 2019*	10-145a(d)
Sec. 3	*July 1, 2019*	10-155d
Sec. 4	*July 1, 2019*	New section
Sec. 5	*July 1, 2019*	10-145d(e)

ED   *Joint Favorable Subst.*

APP   *Joint Favorable*