Senate Resolution 393

By: Senator Millar of the 40th

A RESOLUTION

1   Encouraging revisions of the Georgia Department of Education Code to allow computer
2   programming courses to count toward graduation requirements in math, science, and foreign
3   language in order to strengthen K-12 education and offer a quality, tech-focused education
4   for workforce readiness; and for other purposes.

5   WHEREAS, computing technology is an essential part of our emerging culture and is
6   transforming how people interact with each other and the world in which they live; and

7   WHEREAS, computer programming has revolutionized industry by establishing new fields
8   of commerce, driving innovation, and raising productivity; and

9   WHEREAS, providing students the option to participate in computer programming activities
10 allows them to develop computational and critical thinking skills that ensure Georgia's
11 competitiveness in the 21st century; and

12 WHEREAS, learning programming language components is a benefit to all students, not just
13 those who seek careers as computer programmers; and

14 WHEREAS, all students deserve adequate courses in computer programming education,
15 including access to qualified teachers, computing hardware and software, and
16 age-appropriate curriculum needed to learn computer programming at both elementary and
17 secondary levels of education; and

18 WHEREAS, computer programming education must address the following challenges:
19 earning accreditation towards high school graduation requirements in math, science, and
20 foreign language; increasing the number of qualified computer programming teachers; and
21 providing professional development for computer programming teachers; and

22   WHEREAS, the field of computer programming has significant equity barriers to address,

23   including the need to attract more participation by females and underrepresented minorities

24   at all levels and branches; and

25   WHEREAS, the outlook for computer programming jobs is optimistic, as half of the STEM

26   jobs in the United States are computing occupations; and

27   WHEREAS, Georgia employers post more than 3,000 job openings for IT computing

28   professionals that need to be filled each day, and these vacant computer programming jobs

29   are opening at a rate three times faster than the rate at which computer programming

30   professionals enter the field; and

31   WHEREAS, since computing is a driving force behind economic growth, Georgia needs to

32   ensure that its schools and students have opportunities to be exposed to these valuables skills.

33   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body

34   encourage schools, educators, and parents to participate in computer science education;

35   encourage dual enrollment computer science classes in the accelerated programs and getting

36   computer science on the HOPE rigor list; encourage schools, teachers, researchers,

37   universities, business leaders, and policymakers to identify mechanisms for teachers to

38   receive cutting edge professional development to provide sustainable learning experiences

39   in computer programming at all educational levels; encourage students to be exposed to

40   programming concepts; encourage the use of virtual online schools to provide all Georgia

41   students with equal access to computer programming courses and other advanced courses;

42   encourage policymakers to remove barriers that prevent computer programming classes from

43   being counted toward math, science, or foreign language credits needed for graduation; and

44   encourage opportunities, through both existing programs and programs not yet created, for

45   females and underrepresented minorities in computer programming.

46   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed

47   to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the

48   press.