



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 979

SENATE BILL NO. 2406

By Johnson, Akbari, Campbell, Stevens

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2153

By Lamberth, Gant, Haston, White, Mannis, Kumar, Powell, Ragan, Crawford, Howell, Thompson, Alexander, Cepicky, Hazlewood

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to computer science education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-232, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

To ensure that all students are fully prepared for the technological jobs of today and in the future, the department of education shall:

(1) Provide, no later than the start of the 2023-2024 school year, computer science courses, including online options, in which public school students across the state may enroll at no charge to satisfy the requirements of § 49-6-1010, if the courses are approved by the state board of education;

(2) Subject to available funding, provide, at no charge to educators, a professional development program in computer science education for educators that includes professional learning modules that provide educators with the opportunity to learn and demonstrate competency in computer science by earning a micro-credential pursuant to § 49-1-302(k)(2);

(3) Subject to available funding, provide incentives for schools and educators to offer high-quality professional development opportunities in computer science education to educators, and to offer high-quality computer science education to students; and

(4) Create a computer science education network that may be integrated into the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) school designation and Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) regional hubs.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The department of education shall recommend academic standards for computer science education to the state board of education for adoption. The state board shall adopt academic standards for computer science education, which must be included in the computer science curriculum for students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12). The standards adopted by the state board must be available for implementation beginning with the 2023-2024 school year; however, schools shall not be required to implement the computer science standards until the 2024-2025 school year.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(k), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(k)(1) The department shall develop and submit to the state board of education for approval an endorsement in computer science for individuals enrolled in a state board approved educator preparation program who demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in the course material.

(2) The department shall develop and submit to the state board for approval an additional endorsement pathway to provide educators with the opportunity to demonstrate competency in computer science education by earning a micro-credential that results in an additional license endorsement for computer science. As used in this subdivision (k)(2), "micro-credential" means a competency-based recognition of demonstrated mastery by grade band.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1010, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

(a) In order for every student for whom it is educationally appropriate to receive instruction in computer science sufficient to enable the student to communicate and to be prepared for the technological jobs of today and tomorrow, the state board of education shall, no later than the 2024-2025 school year:

(1) Require each public high school to offer its students access to at least one (1) credit of computer science education;

(2) Require each public middle school student to take one (1) course in computer science education that includes instruction for a minimum of one (1) grading period for one (1) full school year;

(3) Approve appropriate computer science courses that allow LEAs and public charter schools to meet the requirements of subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(2). A computer science course may include, but is not limited to, grade-appropriate instruction on how and why technologies work; exploring whether and how technologies may solve real-life problems; investigating procedures; creating solutions; and learning about computing systems, programming, data, networks, and the effects of technologies on society and individuals; and

(4) Require each elementary school to provide each student grade-appropriate computer science education based on the academic standards in computer science education adopted by the state board of education.

(b)(1) A high school student pursuing a traditional high school diploma, as described in the state board of education's rules, must receive at least one (1) credit of computer science education in high school.

(2) Subdivision (b)(1) only applies to students who enroll in the ninth grade in the 2024-2025 school year, or in a subsequent school year.

(c) A student who transfers to a Tennessee high school during the student's senior year is not required to receive one (1) credit of computer science education in high school in order to receive a traditional high school diploma.

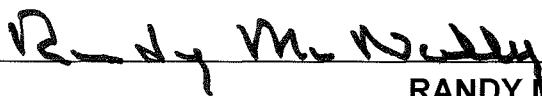
(d) By July 1, 2024, and each July 1 thereafter, the department of education shall submit a report to the education committee of the senate, the education instruction committee of the house of representatives, and the education administration committee of the house of representatives regarding the implementation and status of computer science education in Tennessee.

SECTION 5. The state board of education may promulgate rules to effectuate this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 6. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 14, 2022



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 3rd day of May 2022



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR