

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1183

5 By: Representatives Gossage, C. Armstrong, Baltz, Bell, Cozart, Deffenbaugh, C. Douglas, Eubanks, D.
6 Ferguson, M.J. Gray, Harris, G. Hodges, Lampkin, Leding, Linck, Lowery, McElroy, Murdock, Ratliff,
7 Sabin, Sorvillo, Walker
8 By: Senator Irvin
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND PUBLIC
12 CHARTER SCHOOL TO OFFER A COURSE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE;
13 TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND
14 COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES, STANDARDS, AND PATHWAYS FOR
15 STUDENTS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER
16 PURPOSES.
17
18

Subtitle

19 TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND
20 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO OFFER A COURSE
21 IN COMPUTER SCIENCE; TO ESTABLISH A TASK
22 FORCE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY
23
24
25

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
27

28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended to
29 add an additional section to read as follows:

30 6-16-146. Computer science – Required course offering.

31 (a) Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, a public high school or
32 public charter high school shall offer at least one (1) computer science
33 course at the high school level.

34 (b) A computer science course offered by a public high school or
35 public charter high school shall:

36 (1) Be of high quality;



1 (2) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements
 2 established by the State Board of Education; and

3 (3) Be made available in a traditional classroom setting,
 4 blended learning environment, online-based, or other technology-based format
 5 that is tailored to meet the needs of each participating student.

6
 7 SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Computer Science and
 8 Technology in Public School Task Force – Creation – Membership – Duties.

9 (a) There is created the Computer Science and Technology in Public
 10 School Task Force.

11 (b)(1) The Computer Science and Technology in Public School Task Force
 12 shall consist of up to the following fifteen (15) members:

13 (A) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

14 (B) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development
 15 Commission or his or her designee;

16 (C) The Director of the Department of Career Education or
 17 his or her designee;

18 (D) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or
 19 his or her designee;

20 (E) The Director of the Department of Workforce Services
 21 or his or her designee;

22 (F) The President of the Arkansas Academy of Computing or
 23 his or her designee;

24 (G) The President of the Arkansas chapter of the Computer
 25 Science Teachers Association or his or her designee;

26 (H) The President of the Arkansas Science and Technology
 27 Authority or his or her designee;

28 (I) A high school computer science teacher appointed by
 29 the Governor;

30 (J) A representative of the Arkansas STEM Coalition
 31 appointed by the Governor;

32 (K) A representative in the field of computer programming
 33 appointed by the Governor; and

34 (L) Up to four (4) members at-large appointed by the
 35 Governor.

36 (2) If a vacancy occurs on the Computer Science and Technology

1 in Public School Task Force, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process
2 as the original appointment.

3 (c)(1) The Commissioner of Education shall call the first meeting of
4 the Computer Science and Technology in Public School Task Force within thirty
5 (30) days of the effective date of this act and shall serve as the chair of
6 the Computer Science and Technology in Public School Task Force at the first
7 meeting.

8 (2) At the first meeting of the Computer Science and Technology
9 in Public School Task Force, the members of the Computer Science and
10 Technology in Public School Task Force shall elect from its membership a
11 chair and other officers as needed for the transaction of business.

12 (3)(A) The Computer Science and Technology in Public School Task
13 Force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County at the Department of
14 Education or another site with teleconference capabilities.

15 (B) Meetings of the Computer Science and Technology in
16 Public School Task Force shall be held at least one (1) time every two (2)
17 months but may occur more often at the call of the chair.

18 (4) The Computer Science and Technology in Public School Task
19 Force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting its business.

20 (5)(A) A majority of the members of the Computer Science and
21 Technology in Public School Task Force shall constitute a quorum for
22 transacting business of the Computer Science and Technology in Public School
23 Task Force.

24 (B) No action may be taken by the Computer Science and
25 Technology in Public School Task Force except by a majority vote at a meeting
26 at which a quorum is present.

27 (6) The Department of Education shall provide staff and support
28 for the Computer Science and Technology in Public School Task Force.

29 (d) The purpose of the Computer Science and Technology in Public
30 School Task Force is to:

31 (1) Research and recommend computer science and technology
32 standards and frameworks;

33 (2) Review and recommend changes to existing computer science
34 and technology standards and frameworks;

35 (3) Study the computer science and technology needs of the state
36 now and in the future; and

1 (4) Recommend strategies to meet the anticipated computer
2 science and technology workforce needs in the state.

3 (e)(1) One or before November 1, 2015, the Computer Science and
4 Technology in Public School Task Force shall file with the Governor, the
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the
6 Senate, and the Department of Education a written report of the Computer
7 Science and Technology in Public School Task Force’s activities, findings,
8 and recommendations.

9 (2) One or before November 1, 2016, the Computer Science and
10 Technology in Public School Task Force shall file with the Governor, the
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the
12 Senate, and the Department of Education a written final report of the
13 Computer Science and Technology in Public School Task Force’s activities,
14 findings, and recommendations.

15 (f) The Computer Science and Technology in Public School Task Force
16 expires on December 31, 2016.

17 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
18 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that computer science and
19 technology skills are of vital importance to meet the growing needs of the
20 workforce; that public school students need opportunities to develop computer
21 science and technology skills in order to be competitive in the future; and
22 that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that the Department of
23 Education has the time necessary to develop and modify academic standards for
24 computer science courses before beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.
25 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
26 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
27 become effective on:

28 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

29 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
30 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
31 bill; or

32 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
33 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

34
35
36 APPROVED: 02/24/2015