

House Resolution 1036

By: Representatives Kendrick of the 93rd, Glanton of the 75th, Carter of the 92nd, Chandler of the 105th, and Thomas of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the State of Georgia to fund a public awareness campaign in support of computer
2 science education; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, many of society's major challenges have been identified as having potential
4 computational solutions; and

5 WHEREAS, computational thinking and digital literacy skills taught in computer science
6 courses are rapidly becoming necessary to successfully navigate modern life and therefore
7 are required by all children to be effective and efficient members of the digital, information
8 age; and

9 WHEREAS, computing jobs are the number one source of new wages in the United States;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the average salary for a computing occupation in Georgia is \$85,687, which is
12 significantly higher than the average salary of \$45,420 for an individual living in the state;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, there are approximately 20,000 open computing jobs in Georgia, including
15 many in the field of cybersecurity, and their combined values compose more than \$1.6 billion
16 in potential annual salaries; and

17 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that Georgians possess the skills necessary for these
18 20,000 unfilled positions and the potential 50,000 jobs that will be created if Georgia is
19 selected to be the site of Amazon's new headquarters; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia offers pathways and coding boot camps in secondary education
21 programs, is home to 35 university computer science programs and 11 technical college
22 programs, and possesses a cybersecurity center in Augusta; and

23 WHEREAS, 93 percent of parents want their child to study computer science but only 40
24 percent of schools teach computer programming; and

25 WHEREAS, the number of teachers in Georgia who are endorsed or certified to teach
26 computer science is growing, but they often have to pay their own way and do not have time
27 to collaborate; and

28 WHEREAS, we urge the creation of a comprehensive statewide campaign targeting students,
29 parents, businesses, community leaders, and educators to increase computer science
30 awareness by:

- 31 • convening a Summit to expand public awareness of computer science and its wide
32 breadth of utility in society
- 33 • increasing counselor and administrator awareness of various science graduation
34 options, including the ability to use computer science courses to fulfill math and
35 science requirements for high school graduation, University System of Georgia
36 admission requirements for science and foreign language, and Technical College
37 System of Georgia admission requirements
- 38 • enhancing awareness of curriculum options, including online, offline, unplugged,
39 and out of school, to support current teachers, new teachers, and supplement a lack
40 of computer science teachers, particularly in rural or socioeconomically challenged
41 schools
- 42 • introducing computational thinking into elementary schools by organizing special
43 classes or integrating the subject into existing curricula; and

44 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is developing standards for grades K-8 aligned
45 with International Society for Technology in Education guidelines and has already developed
46 standards for grades 9-12 in computer science courses approved by the Georgia State Board
47 of Education; and

48 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has college and career ready standards included
49 in the Information Technology Cluster for high school courses specifically designed to equip
50 students to perform duties in the areas of design, development, and management as well as
51 hardware, software, and systems integration; and

52 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to ensure all students have equitable access
53 to a relevant computer science education to meet the needs of a growing technological
54 economy across the state and nation.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
56 the members of this body urge the state to fund an innovative, interactive, and relevant
57 integrated branding, advertising, marketing, communications, and public relations campaign
58 to expose parents, their children, community leaders, influencers, and industry to the current
59 and future educational opportunities for computer science coursework that includes relevant
60 content in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics and relevant
61 course topics of computer science, software development, artificial intelligence, machine
62 learning, advanced manufacturing and robotics, cybersecurity, blockchain, and high growth
63 startup entrepreneurship.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
65 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
66 public and the press.