The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HB 1027:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1   To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia

2   Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education

3   Act," so as to provide that, beginning in the 2030-2031 school year, a computer science

4   course shall be a high school graduation requirement; to provide for certain computer science

5   courses to be substituted for units of credit graduation requirements in certain other subject

6   areas; to require that such course shall not include virtual or remote instruction, subject to an

7   exception; to provide for such exception; to revise legislative findings; to provide for related

8   matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9   BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10   **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,

12 relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is

13 amended by revising Code Section 20-2-149.3, relating to requirements for computer science

14 education, as follows:

15   "20-2-149.3.

16   (a) The General Assembly finds that:

17   (1) Education in computer science is a critical need for the students of Georgia ~~for the~~

18   ~~twenty-first century~~; and

19   (2) ~~Less than 0.5 percent of high school graduates have taken a computer science course;~~

20   ~~(3) There are thousands of unfulfilled computer science jobs in the state; and~~

21   ~~(4)~~ The ~~logical~~ critical thinking skills taught by computer science are ~~now very~~ valuable

22   in many noncomputer science jobs, as technology has become embedded in most

23   professions.

24   (b) As used in this Code section, the term:

25   (1) 'Computer science' means the study of computers, algorithmic processes, coding, and

26   ~~logical~~ critical thinking, including computer principles, their hardware and software

27   designs, their implementation, and their impact on society.

28   (2) 'Computer science courses and content' means high school courses that teach

29   computer science as stand-alone implementations and middle school courses that provide

30   instruction in computer science in stand-alone implementations or by being embedded

31   in other subjects and focus on how to create and understand technology, rather than by

32   simply using technology.

33   (3) 'High-quality professional learning' means professional development activities that:

34   (A) Clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;

35   (B) Teach research based practices, including hands-on and inquiry based learning; and

36   (C) Are intended for teachers with or without prior exposure to computer science.

37   (4) 'High-quality professional learning providers' means institutions of higher education

38   in this state, local school systems, nonprofit organizations, or private entities that have

39   successfully designed, implemented, and scaled high-quality professional learning for

40   teachers and are approved or recommended by the State Board of Education in

41   coordination with the Department of Education.

42   (5) 'Offer' means providing a course taught by a computer science teacher:

43   (A) Who is onsite at the physical location of the school; or

44   (B) Who is not onsite at the physical location of the school but conducts the course

45   through virtual means with a proctor onsite at the physical location of the school.

46   (c)(1) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year:

47   (A) Each local school system shall provide that at least one high school in its school

48   system offer a course in computer science;

49   (B) Each local school system shall provide that all middle schools in its school system

50   offer instruction in exploratory computer science;

51   (C) Each state charter school that serves high school students shall offer a course in

52   computer science;

53   (D) Each state charter school that serves middle school students shall offer instruction

54   in exploratory computer science;

55   (E) Each local school system may provide that all elementary schools in its school

56   system offer instruction in exploratory computer science; and

57   (F)   Each state charter school that serves elementary school students may offer

58   instruction in exploratory computer science.

59   (2) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each local school system shall provide that

60   at least 50 percent of the high schools in its school system offer a course in computer

61   science.

62   (3) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each local school system shall provide that

63   all high schools in its school system offer a course in computer science.

64   (4)(A) Beginning in the 2030-2031 school year, each local board of education shall

65   require all students, as a condition of graduation from high school, to complete a

66   full-credit course in computer science or a full-credit career, technical, and agricultural

67   education (CTAE) course embedded with computer science which meets the

68   requirements provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

69   (B)   The full-credit course required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be

70   earned by students in any of grades eight through 12 and shall:

71   (i) Meet or exceed the content standards and any other requirements prescribed by

72   the State Board of Education for such courses;

73   (ii) Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning

74   environment, or an online or other technology based format that is tailored to meet the

75   needs of each participating student; and

76   (iii) Not increase the number of credits required for graduation.

77   (C)(i) Except as provided in division (ii) of this subparagraph, a full-credit computer

78   science course that meets the requirements provided in subparagraph (B) of this

79   paragraph shall be eligible to satisfy the full-credit course required in subparagraph

80   (A) of this paragraph and one unit of credit graduation requirement for one of the

81   following:

82   (I) One unit of math credit; provided, however, that such unit of credit shall not be

83   a substitute for Mathematics I or GPS Algebra or its equivalent, Mathematics II or

84   GPS Geometry or its equivalent, or Mathematics III or GPS Advanced Algebra or

85   its equivalent;

86   (II) One unit of science credit; provided, however, that such unit of credit shall not

87   be a substitute for any biology or physical science requirements;

88   (III) One unit of CTAE credit; or

89   (IV) One unit of elective credit.

90   (ii) A student may be permitted to earn more than one unit of credit graduation

91   requirement by completing more than one computer science course that implements

92   a minimum course of instruction based on content standards prescribed by the State

93   Board of Education and which is separate and distinct from such other computer

94   science course completed by such student, and such student may be permitted to use

95   multiple units of credit to offset other graduation requirements as provided in this

96   subparagraph; provided, however, that a student shall not be permitted to offset more

97   than one unit of math credit and one unit of science credit; and, provided further, that

98   there shall be no limit to the number of offsets permitted for units of CTAE or elective

99   credits.

100   (D)(i) Except as provided in division (ii) of this subparagraph, a full-credit CTAE

101   course embedded with computer science that meets the requirements provided in

102   subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall be eligible to satisfy the full-credit course

103   required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and one unit of credit graduation

104   requirement for one of the following:

105   (I) One unit of CTAE credit; or

106   (II) One unit of elective credit.

107   (ii) A student may be permitted to earn more than one unit of credit graduation

108   requirement by completing more than one CTAE course embedded with computer

109   science that implements a minimum course of instruction based on content standards

110   prescribed by the State Board of Education and which is separate and distinct from

111   such other computer science course completed by such student, and such student may

112   be permitted to use multiple units of credit to offset other graduation requirements as

113   provided in this subparagraph.

114   (E) The Department of Education shall establish, and the State Board of Education

115   shall approve, the minimum criteria by with a CTAE course embedded with computer

116   science may be approved.

117   (d) The Department of Education shall ensure that the Georgia Virtual School operated

118   pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.1 has sufficient capacity to enable schools to utilize

119   computer science courses to meet the needs of such schools as a result of this Code section.

120   (e)(1) Subject to appropriations, grants shall be provided to eligible entities to deliver

121   professional development programs for teachers providing instruction in computer

122   science courses and content.

123   (2) Eligible entities shall include local school systems, consortia of local school systems,

124   local charter schools, state charter schools, and high-quality professional learning

125   providers working in partnership with local school systems.

126   (3) Criteria for grant awards to eligible entities pursuant to this subsection shall include:

127   (A) The number of teachers in a local school system that require training and the

128   number of teachers in a local school system that have already received training; and

129   (B) The willingness of local school systems to make available their teachers who have

130   received training in computer science courses and content to provide computer science

131   instruction in another local school system or systems.

132   (4) The Department of Education shall submit a report on December 1 of each year to

133   the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the

134   chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and the chairperson of the

135   House Committee on Education. Such report shall include the number of teachers

136   trained, the number of schools offering training, the number of students served and the

137   demographics of such students, and a list of the eligible entities that provided the

138   training."

139   **SECTION 2.**

140   All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.