

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to SB 179:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide that, beginning in the 2031-2032
3 school year, a computer science course shall be a high school graduation requirement; to
4 provide for certain computer science courses to be substituted for units of credit graduation
5 requirements in certain other subject areas; to provide for such exception; to revise legislative
6 findings; to increase the allowable charge per student per semester for each Georgia Virtual
7 School course from \$250.00 to \$350.00; to include certain online schools in the definition
8 of "private school"; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
9 purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
13 secondary education, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-149.3, relating to
14 requirements for computer science education, as follows:

15 "20-2-149.3.

16 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

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- 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,
26 computer science ethics, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, and logical critical
27 thinking, including computer principles, their hardware and software designs, their
28 implementation, and their impact on society.
- 29 (2) 'Computer science courses and content' means high school courses that teach
30 computer science as stand-alone implementations and middle school courses that provide
31 instruction in computer science in stand-alone implementations or by being embedded
32 in other subjects and focus on how to create and understand technology, rather than by
33 simply using technology.
- 34 (3) 'High-quality professional learning' means professional development activities that:
35 (A) Clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;
36 (B) Teach research based practices, including hands-on and inquiry based learning; and
37 (C) Are intended for teachers with or without prior exposure to computer science.
- 38 (4) 'High-quality professional learning providers' means institutions of higher education
39 in this state, local school systems, nonprofit organizations, or private entities that have
40 successfully designed, implemented, and scaled high-quality professional learning for
41 teachers and are approved or recommended by the State Board of Education in
42 coordination with the Department of Education.
- 43 (5) 'Offer' means providing a course taught by a computer science teacher:

- 44 (A) Who is onsite at the physical location of the school; or
45 (B) Who is not onsite at the physical location of the school but conducts the course
46 through virtual means with a proctor onsite at the physical location of the school.
- 47 (c)(1) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year:
- 48 (A) Each local school system shall provide that at least one high school in its school
49 system offer a course in computer science;
- 50 (B) Each local school system shall provide that all middle schools in its school system
51 offer instruction in exploratory computer science;
- 52 (C) Each state charter school that serves high school students shall offer a course in
53 computer science;
- 54 (D) Each state charter school that serves middle school students shall offer instruction
55 in exploratory computer science;
- 56 (E) Each local school system may provide that all elementary schools in its school
57 system offer instruction in exploratory computer science; and
- 58 (F) Each state charter school that serves elementary school students may offer
59 instruction in exploratory computer science.
- 60 (2) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each local school system shall provide that
61 at least 50 percent of the high schools in its school system offer a course in computer
62 science.
- 63 (3) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each local school system shall provide that
64 all high schools in its school system offer a course in computer science.
- 65 (4)(A) Beginning in the 2031-2032 school year, each local board of education shall
66 require all students who will graduate in 2037 or later, as a condition of graduation
67 from high school, to complete a course in computer science or a career, technical, and
68 agricultural education (CTAE) course embedded with computer science which meets
69 the requirements provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

70 (B) The course required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned by
71 students in any of grades eight through 12 and shall:

72 (i) Meet or exceed the content standards and any other requirements prescribed by
73 the State Board of Education for such courses;

74 (ii) Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning
75 environment, or an online or other technology based format that is tailored to meet the
76 needs of each participating student; and

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

78 (C)(i) Except as provided in division (ii) of this subparagraph, a full-credit computer
79 science course that meets the requirements provided in subparagraph (B) of this
80 paragraph shall be eligible to satisfy the course required in subparagraph (A) of this
81 paragraph and one unit of credit graduation requirement for one of the following:

82 (I) One unit of math credit; provided, however, that such unit of credit shall not be
83 a substitute for Algebra: Concepts and Connections or its equivalent, Geometry:
84 Concepts and Connections or its equivalent, or Advanced Algebra: Concepts and
85 Connections or its equivalent;

86 (II) One unit of science credit; provided, however, that such unit of credit shall not
87 be a substitute for Biology or an equivalent, Physical Science, Physics, Chemistry,
88 Earth Systems, Environmental Science, or an advanced placement or international
89 baccalaureate course;

90 (III) One unit of CTAE credit;

91 (IV) One unit of Modern Language or Latin credit;

92 (V) One unit of Fine Arts credit; or

93 (VI) One unit of elective credit.

94 (ii) A student may be permitted to earn more than one unit of credit graduation
95 requirement by completing more than one computer science course that implements
96 a minimum course of instruction based on content standards prescribed by the State

97 Board of Education and which is separate and distinct from such other computer
98 science course completed by such student, and such student may be permitted to use
99 multiple units of credit to offset other graduation requirements as provided in this
100 subparagraph; provided, however, that a student shall not be permitted to offset more
101 than one unit of math credit and one unit of science credit; and, provided, further, that
102 there shall be no limit to the number of offsets permitted for units of CTAE or elective
103 credits.

104 (D)(i) Except as provided in division (ii) of this subparagraph, a full-credit CTAE
105 course embedded with computer science that meets the requirements provided in
106 subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall be eligible to satisfy the full-credit course
107 required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and one unit of credit graduation
108 requirement for one of the following:

109 (I) One unit of CTAE credit; or

110 (II) One unit of elective credit.

111 (ii) A student may be permitted to earn more than one unit of credit graduation
112 requirement by completing more than one CTAE course embedded with computer
113 science that implements a minimum course of instruction based on content standards
114 prescribed by the State Board of Education and which is separate and distinct from
115 such other computer science course completed by such student, and such student may
116 be permitted to use multiple units of credit to offset other graduation requirements as
117 provided in this subparagraph.

118 (E) The Department of Education shall establish, and the State Board of Education
119 shall approve, the minimum criteria by which a CTAE course embedded with computer
120 science may be approved.

121 (d) The Department of Education shall ensure that the Georgia Virtual School operated
122 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.1 has sufficient capacity to enable schools to utilize
123 computer science courses to meet the needs of such schools as a result of this Code section.

124 (e)(1) Subject to appropriations, grants shall be provided to eligible entities to deliver
125 professional development programs for teachers providing instruction in computer
126 science courses and content.

127 (2) Eligible entities shall include local school systems, consortia of local school systems,
128 local charter schools, state charter schools, and high-quality professional learning
129 providers working in partnership with local school systems.

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

131 (A) The number of teachers in a local school system that require training and the
132 number of teachers in a local school system that have already received training; and

133 (B) The willingness of local school systems to make available their teachers who have
134 received training in computer science courses and content to provide computer science
135 instruction in another local school system or systems.

136 (4) The Department of Education shall submit a report on December 1 of each year to
137 the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
138 chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and the chairperson of the
139 House Committee on Education. Such report shall include the number of teachers
140 trained, the number of schools offering training, the number of students served and the
141 demographics of such students, and a list of the eligible entities that provided the
142 training."

143 **SECTION 2.**

144 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-319.1, relating to the Georgia Virtual
145 School, by revising paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) as follows:

146 "(2) The local school system shall pay to the department costs for tuition, materials, and
147 fees directly related to the approved course taken by a student in its school system
148 through the Georgia Virtual School; provided, however, that in no event shall the amount
149 of tuition charged to and paid by the local school system on behalf of such student exceed

150 ~~\$250.00~~ \$350.00 per student per semester course; and provided, further, that, if a student
151 participates in courses through the Georgia Virtual School that are in excess of the
152 maximum number of courses a student may be enrolled in during a school day, such
153 student shall be subject to the cost of tuition not to exceed ~~\$250.00~~ \$350.00 per student
154 per semester course.

155 (3) Students in home study programs and private schools in this state may enroll in
156 courses through the Georgia Virtual School at no cost, if appropriations are provided for
157 such purpose in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection. If appropriations are
158 not provided or if appropriations are provided but have been expended for such purpose,
159 students in home study programs and private schools in this state may enroll in courses
160 through the Georgia Virtual School based on availability of slots; provided, however, that
161 such students shall be subject to the cost of tuition not to exceed ~~\$250.00~~ \$350.00 per
162 student per semester course."

163 **SECTION 3.**

164 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-690, relating to educational entities,
165 requirements for private schools and home study programs, and learning pod protection, by
166 revising paragraph (3) of subsection (b) as follows:

167 "(3) The institution provides instruction each 12 months for the equivalent of 180 school
168 days of education with each school day consisting of at least four and one-half school
169 hours; provided, however, that a nonpublic institution which meets the requirements of
170 paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of this subsection and which solely provides virtual
171 instruction shall be deemed a private school notwithstanding whether such institution
172 provides instruction each 12 months for the equivalent of 180 school days of education
173 with each school day consisting of at least four and one-half school hours;"

174

SECTION 4.

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