

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1711

4
5 By: Representative Penzo

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE COMPUTER SCIENCE TO BE OFFERED AS A
9 FOREIGN LANGUAGE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR
10 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO REQUIRE COMPUTER SCIENCE TO BE OFFERED
15 AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE; AND TO DECLARE AN
16 EMERGENCY.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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

23 6-16-152. Computer science as foreign language.

24 (a) As used in this section, "computer science course" means the same
25 as defined in § 6-16-147.

26 (b)(1) A public school or an open-enrollment public charter school
27 shall offer a computer science course as a foreign language.

28 (2) A computer science course that qualifies as a foreign
29 language under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall include without
30 limitation the following courses:

31 (A) Programming;

32 (B) College Board Advanced Placement Computer Science

33 Principles;

34 (C) College Board Advanced Placement Computer Science A;

35 (D) International Baccalaureate Computer Science Standard

36 Level; and



1 (E) International Baccalaureate Computer Science Higher
2 Level.

3 (c) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
4 promulgate rules for the licensure and curriculum requirements necessary to
5 implement this section.

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7 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

8 (a) When adopting the initial rules required under this act, the
9 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall file the final rules
10 with the Secretary of State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

11 (1) On or before August 1, 2021; or

12 (2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by August 1,
13 2021, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

14 (b) The division shall file the proposed rules with the Legislative
15 Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of August 1, 2021, so
16 that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval before
17 August 1, 2021.

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19 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
20 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that public school students will be
21 eligible to take the course offered under this act as soon as the next
22 academic year; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that
23 students who will qualify for the course offered under this act will be able
24 to enroll in the appropriate classes for purposes of required graduation
25 credits. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being
26 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
27 safety shall 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.