

State of Arkansas  
93rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1711

By: Representative Penzo

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

### Subtitle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Programming;

(B) College Board Advanced Placement Computer Science

Principles;

(C) College Board Advanced Placement Computer Science A;

(D) International Baccalaureate Computer Science Standard

Level; and



(E) International Baccalaureate Computer Science Higher Level.

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

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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