



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 957**

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM, PROGRAMS OF TEACHER PREPARATION AND ALTERNATE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS AND THE CREATION OF AN ADJUNCT COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR PERMIT AND A COMPUTER SCIENCE ENDORSEMENT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2019*):

4 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall  
5 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally  
6 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;  
7 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and  
8 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary  
9 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-  
10 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not  
11 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in  
12 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast  
13 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health,  
14 physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide  
15 prevention, substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating  
16 to opioid use and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe

17 use of social media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the  
18 dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts,  
19 including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling;  
20 mathematics; physical education; science, which may include the  
21 climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section;  
22 social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics,  
23 geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide  
24 education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section  
25 10-18f; computer science, including, but not limited to, computer  
26 programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary  
27 level, one or more world languages and vocational education. For  
28 purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include American  
29 Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified  
30 instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate  
31 issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this  
32 subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts,  
33 which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is  
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
36 *1, 2019*):

37 (d) On and after July 1, [1998] 2019, any [candidate in a] program of  
38 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall [complete  
39 a] include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in computer science,  
40 and other information technology skills, [component of such program,]  
41 as applied to student learning and classroom instruction,  
42 communications, [and] data management, programming and coding.

43 Sec. 3. Section 10-155d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
44 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

45 (a) The Office of Higher Education shall encourage and support  
46 experimentation and research in the preparation of teachers for public  
47 elementary and secondary schools. To help fulfill the purposes of this  
48 section, the Office of Higher Education shall appoint an advisory

49 council composed of qualified professionals which shall render  
50 assistance and advice to the office. In carrying out its activities  
51 pursuant to this section, the office shall consult with the State Board of  
52 Education and such other agencies as it deems appropriate to assure  
53 coordination of all activities of the state relating to the preparation of  
54 teachers for public elementary and secondary schools.

55 (b) The Office of Higher Education, with the approval of the  
56 Commissioner of Education, shall expand, within available  
57 appropriations, participation in its summer alternate route to  
58 certification program and its weekend and evening alternate route to  
59 certification program. The office shall expand the weekend and  
60 evening program for participants seeking certification in a subject  
61 shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b. The office, in collaboration  
62 with the Department of Education, shall develop (1) a regional  
63 alternate route to certification program targeted to the subject shortage  
64 areas, [and] (2) an alternate route to certification program for former  
65 teachers whose certificates have expired and who are interested in  
66 resuming their teaching careers, and (3) an alternate route to  
67 certification program targeted for computer science teachers.

68 (c) The Office of Higher Education, in consultation with the  
69 Department of Education, shall develop alternate route to certification  
70 programs for (1) school administrators and superintendents, [and] (2)  
71 early childhood education teachers, and (3) computer science teachers.  
72 The programs shall include mentored apprenticeships and criteria for  
73 admission to the programs.

74 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) The State Board of  
75 Education, upon the request of a local or regional board of education  
76 or a regional educational service center, may issue an adjunct  
77 computer science instructor permit to any applicant with specialized  
78 training, experience or expertise in computer science. Such permit shall  
79 authorize a person to hold a part-time position as a teacher of  
80 computer science. Such applicant shall (1) hold a bachelor's degree  
81 from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of

82 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or  
83 regionally accredited, (2) have a minimum of three years of work  
84 experience in computer science, or one year of work experience and  
85 two years of specialized schooling related to computer science, and (3)  
86 achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of  
87 Education approved subject area assessment.

88 (b) During the period of employment as a computer science  
89 instructor, any person holding an adjunct computer science instructor  
90 permit shall be under the supervision of the superintendent of schools  
91 or of a principal, administrator or supervisor designated by such  
92 superintendent who shall regularly observe, guide and evaluate the  
93 performance of assigned duties by such holder of an adjunct computer  
94 science instructor permit.

95 (c) Each adjunct computer science instructor permit shall be valid  
96 for three years and may be renewed by the Commissioner of  
97 Education for good cause upon the request of the superintendent of  
98 schools for the district employing such person or the regional  
99 educational service center employing such person.

100 (d) Any board of education or regional educational service center  
101 employing a person who holds an adjunct computer science instructor  
102 permit issued under this section shall provide a program to assist each  
103 such person. Such program, developed in consultation with the  
104 Department of Education, shall include academic and classroom  
105 support service components.

106 (e) No person holding an adjunct computer science instructor  
107 permit shall fill a position that will result in the displacement of any  
108 person holding a teaching certificate under section 10-145b of the  
109 general statutes who is already employed at such school.

110 (f) Any person holding an adjunct computer science instructor  
111 permit pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to be eligible for  
112 membership in the teachers' retirement system solely by reason of such

113 permit, provided any such person who holds a regular teacher's  
114 certificate issued by the State Board of Education shall not be excluded  
115 from membership in said system.

116 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is  
117 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
118 *1, 2019*):

119 (e) [The] Not later than July 1, 2020, the State Board of Education  
120 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to provide  
121 standards for the certification of computer science teachers. Such  
122 regulations shall create a computer science endorsement and make  
123 provision for certification requirements to be met by either (1)  
124 completion of prescribed courses of study, or (2) such other experience  
125 as the state board shall deem appropriate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-16b(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145a(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-155d
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145d(e)

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*