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 Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education; health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe
use of social media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the
dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts,
including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling;
mathematics; physical education; science, which may include the
climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section;
social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics,
geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide
education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section
10-18f; computer science, including, but not limited to, computer
programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary
level, one or more world languages and vocational education. For
purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include American
Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified
instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate
issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this
subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts,
which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

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repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July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

(d) On and after July 1, 1998, any candidate in a program of
teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in computer science,
and other information technology skills, as applied to student learning and classroom instruction, communications, and data management, programming and coding.

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

(a) The Office of Higher Education shall encourage and support
experimentation and research in the preparation of teachers for public
elementary and secondary schools. To help fulfill the purposes of this
section, the Office of Higher Education shall appoint an advisory
council composed of qualified professionals which shall render assistance and advice to the office. In carrying out its activities pursuant to this section, the office shall consult with the State Board of Education and such other agencies as it deems appropriate to assure coordination of all activities of the state relating to the preparation of teachers for public elementary and secondary schools.

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

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

Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) (a) The State Board of Education, upon the request of a local or regional board of education or a regional educational service center, may issue an adjunct computer science instructor permit to any applicant with specialized training, experience or expertise in computer science. Such permit shall authorize a person to hold a part-time position as a teacher of computer science. Such applicant shall (1) hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of
Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) have a minimum of three years of work experience in computer science, or one year of work experience and two years of specialized schooling related to computer science, and (3) achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment.

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

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

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

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

(f) Any person holding an adjunct computer science instructor permit pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to be eligible for membership in the teachers’ retirement system solely by reason of such
permit, provided any such person who holds a regular teacher's certificate issued by the State Board of Education shall not be excluded from membership in said system.

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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ED Joint Favorable Subst.

APP Joint Favorable