WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

House Bill 4730

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BLACKWELL, STATLER AND ROHRBACH

[Passed March 12, 2016; in effect ninety days from

passage.]

1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,

2 designated §18-2-12, relating to computer science courses of instruction; making

3 legislative findings; requiring submission by state board of plan for implementation of

4 computer science instruction and learning standards in public schools to legislative

5 oversight commission prior to 2017 legislative session; and specifying areas of

6 recommendations to be included in plan.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new

2 section, designated §18-2-12, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-12. Computer science courses of instruction; learning standards; state board plan development.

1 (a) Legislative findings:

2 (1) Computer technology increasingly is pervasive in nearly every function of society from

3 consumer products to transportation, communications, electrical infrastructure, logistics,

4 agriculture, medical treatments, research, security and financial transactions;

5 (2) The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that by 2024, there will be more than

6 800,000 new jobs in the STEM fields and more than two-thirds of these directly will be in

7 computing occupations;

8 (3) Studying computer science prepares students to enter many career areas, both within

9 and outside of computing, teaching them logical reasoning, algorithmic thinking, design and

10 structured problem solving skills applicable in many contexts from science and engineering to the

11 humanities and business;

12 (4) Computer science is an established discipline at the collegiate and post-graduate

13 levels but, unfortunately, computer science concepts and courses have not kept pace in the K-12

14 curriculum to the point that the nation faces a serious shortage of computer scientists at all levels

15　　that is likely to continue for the foreseeable future; and

16　　　　　(5) Organizations such as the Computer Science Teachers Association, the International

17　Society for Technology in Education and technology industry leaders have developed

18　recommendations for standards, curriculum and instructional resources for computer technology

19　learning in K-12 schools.

20　　　　　(b) Prior to the 2017 regular legislative session, the state board shall submit a plan to the

21　Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for the implementation of

22　computer science instruction and learning standards in the public schools. The Plan shall include

23　at least the following:

24　　　　　(1) Recommendations for a core set of learning standards designed to provide the

25　foundation for a complete computer science curriculum and its implementation at the K–12 level

26　including, but not limited to:

27　　　　　(A) Introducing the fundamental concepts of computer science to all students, beginning

28　at the elementary school level;

29　　　　　(B) Presenting computer science at the secondary school level in a way that is both

30　accessible and worthy of an academic curriculum credit and may fulfill a computer science, math,

31　or science graduation credit;

32　　　　　(C) Encouraging schools to offer additional secondary-level computer science courses

33　that will allow interested students to study facets of computer science in more depth and prepare

34　them for entry into the work force or college; and

35　　　　　(D) Increasing the availability of rigorous computer science for all students.

36　　　　　(2) Recommendations for teaching standards and secondary certificate endorsements if

37　necessary for teachers to deliver curriculum appropriate to meet the standards;

38　　　　　(3) Recommendations for units of instruction or courses in academic and vocational

39　technical settings that complement any existing K–12 computer science and IT curricula where

40　they are already established, especially the Advanced Placement computer science curricula and

41   professional IT certifications; and

42   (4) Proposals for implementation of the recommendations over a period not to exceed

43   four years and estimates of any associated additional costs.

44   (c) Nothing in this section requires adoption or implementation of any specific

45   recommendation or any level of appropriation by the Legislature.