

HOUSE BILL 1339

By White M

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, relative to computer science.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6004, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) The state board of education shall approve appropriate computer science courses that every candidate for a full high school diploma may enroll in and complete to satisfy the elective focus requirement for graduation.

(b) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, public high schools, including public charter high schools, shall offer at least one (1) elective computer science course.

(c) The computer science course may be provided in a traditional classroom setting, blended learning environment, online-based format, or other technology-based format.

(d) As used in this section, "computer science" means the study of computers and computational systems, focusing on the theory, design, development, and application of software and software systems, including algorithms and programming, and beyond simply the use of computers or computer applications.

(e) As used in this section, "computer science course" includes, but is not limited to, software engineering, computer programming, computer graphics and design, and computer-aided design.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following section:

(a) There is created the computer science and technology in public schools task force.

(b) The computer science and technology in public schools task force consists of nine (9) members as follows:

(1) The commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee, who serves as the chair of the task force;

(2) The commissioner of economic and community development, or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The executive director of career and technical education for the department of education, or the executive director's designee;

(4) The executive director of the Tennessee higher education commission, or the executive director's designee;

(5) The commissioner of labor and workforce development, or the commissioner's designee;

(6) A representative of the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, to be appointed by the governor;

(7) A representative of the STEM leadership council, to be appointed by the governor;

(8) A high school computer science teacher, to be appointed by the governor; and

(9) One (1) person with experience in the field of computer programming, to be appointed by the governor.

(c) The purpose of the task force is to:

(1) Research and recommend computer science and technology curriculum standards and frameworks;

(2) Review and recommend changes to existing computer science and technology curriculum standards and frameworks;

(3) Study the computer science and technology needs of the state; and

(4) Recommend strategies to meet the state's anticipated computer science and technology workforce needs.

(d)

(1) Members of the task force serve without compensation or reimbursement for any expenses incurred while participating in the business of the task force.

(2) Vacancies must be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(e) In making appointments, the governor shall strive to ensure that the task force is inclusive and composed of members who are diverse in race, gender, geographic residency, perspective, and experience.

(f) The task force meets at the call of the chair.

(g) The task force must adopt its findings and recommendations by a majority vote of its total membership.

(h) All appropriate state agencies must provide assistance to the task force at the request of the chair. The task force is administratively attached to the department of education.

(i) The task force shall hold at least one (1) public meeting and utilize technological means, such as webcasts, to gather feedback from the general public on the task force's recommendations.

(j)

(1) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including feedback gathered from the general public, to the chief clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the chairs of the

education committees of the house of representatives and the senate no later than January 1, 2021.

(2) This section is repealed on January 1, 2021.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.