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HOUSE BILL 8
Committee Substitute Favorable 2/14/23
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H8-PCS30101-BW-1

Short Title:	Computer Sci. Grad. Requirement. (Public)
Sponsors:	
Referred to:	

January 26, 2023

1   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE INSTRUCTION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND COMPLETION OF
3   A COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5   **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 115C-12(9d) reads as rewritten:
6   "(9d)   Power to Develop Exit Standards and Graduation Requirements. –
7   a.   The Board may develop exit standards that shall be required for high
8   school graduation. The Board shall require the following for high
9   school graduation:
10   1.   Successful completion of instruction in cardiopulmonary
11   resuscitation as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10).
12   2.   A passing grade in the semester course on the Founding
13   Principles of the United States of America and the State of
14   North Carolina described in G.S. 115C-81.45(d)(1).
15   3.   A passing grade in a computer science course as provided in
16   G.S. 115C-81.90(c). The computer science course shall fulfill
17   one credit that is not an English, mathematics, science, or
18   social studies credit. Students enrolling in a public high school
19   in this State after completion of the eleventh grade shall be
20   exempt from this requirement.
21   b.   The following restrictions apply to the Board regarding ~~Algebra I and~~
22   ~~high school graduation projects:~~certain graduation requirements:
23   1.   The Board shall not adopt or enforce any rule that requires
24   Algebra I as a graduation standard or as a requirement for a
25   high school diploma for any student whose individualized
26   education program (i) identifies the student as learning
27   disabled in the area of mathematics and (ii) states that this
28   learning disability will prevent the student from mastering
29   Algebra I.
30   2.   The Board shall not require any student to prepare a high
31   school graduation project as a condition of graduation from
32   high school; local boards of education may, however, require
33   their students to complete a high school graduation as provided
34   in G.S. 115C-47(54a).

1   3.   The Board shall not enforce a computer science graduation
2   requirement for any student whose individualized education
3   program states that the student's disability would prevent the
4   student from completing that graduation requirement."
5   **SECTION 1.(b)** When establishing the computer science graduation requirement,
6   the State Board of Education shall not increase the current number of required credits but shall
7   instead decrease the number of elective credits by one.
8   **SECTION 1.(c)** The requirements of G.S. 115C-12(9d)a.3., as amended by this
9   section, apply beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the 2024-2025 school year.
10   **SECTION 2.(a)** Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is
11 amended by adding a new section to read:
12 "**§ 115C-81.90. Computer science.**
13   (a)   Required Instruction. – The State Board of Education shall include instruction in
14 computer science in the standard course of study for middle and high school students. Computer
15 science shall mean the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their (i)
16 principles, (ii) hardware and software designs, (iii) implementation, and (iv) impact on society.
17   (b)   Introductory Course. – Each public school unit shall offer to middle school students
18 an elective introductory computer science course that surveys the field of computer science. The
19 State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction, shall adopt
20 a list of approved courses that fulfill this requirement and make it publicly available on the
21 Department's website.
22   (c)   Graduation Requirement. – Each public school unit shall offer to high school students
23 a computer science course which includes instruction in using existing technologies and creating
24 new technologies. The public school unit may offer such a course to middle school students. The
25 State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction, shall adopt
26 a list of approved courses that fulfill this requirement and make it publicly available on the
27 Department's website. A passing grade in this course, whether taken in middle school or high
28 school, satisfies the graduation requirement established in G.S. 115C-12(9d)a.3.
29   (d)   Instructional Setting. – Public school units shall ensure that computer science courses
30 be conducted in an in-person setting when practicable. When an in-person setting is not
31 practicable, computer science courses may be provided through enrollment in remote courses
32 that meet the requirements of Part 11 of Article 16 of this Chapter."
33   **SECTION 2.(b)** The State Board of Education shall adopt the list of approved
34 computer science courses required by G.S. 115C-81.90(c), as enacted by this section, and post it
35 on the Department of Public Instruction's website by July 1, 2023. The State Board of Education
36 shall adopt the list of approved introductory computer science courses required by
37 G.S. 115C-81.90(b), as enacted by this section, and post it on the Department of Public
38 Instruction's website by January 1, 2025.
39   **SECTION 2.(c)** For the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years only, by July 1 of
40 each school year, a public school unit may submit a signed notification to the Department of
41 Public Instruction stating that a computer science course fulfilling the requirements of
42 G.S. 115C-81.90(c), as enacted by this section, was not available to students. This submission
43 waives the requirement to offer such a course for the school year in which the submission is
44 made. Submission of a notification that a course fulfilling G.S. 115C-81.90(c) was not available
45 shall waive the graduation requirement established by G.S. 115C-12(9d)a.3., as enacted by this
46 act, for students entering the ninth grade in the school year in which the notification is submitted.
47 The Department shall maintain a list of public school units that submitted a notification under
48 this section.
49   **SECTION 2.(d)** For the 2025-2026 school year only, by July 1, a public school unit
50 may submit a signed notification to the Department of Public Instruction stating that a computer
51 science course fulfilling the requirements of G.S. 115C-81.90(b), as enacted by this section, was

1   not available to students. The submission waives the requirement to offer such a course for the
2   2025-2026 school year.
3   **SECTION 2.(e)**   Subsection (b) of G.S. 115C-81.90, as enacted by this section,
4   applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. The remainder of subsection (a) of this section
5   applies beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.
6   **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 115C-218.85(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
7   read:
8   "(6)   A charter school shall provide computer science instruction as required by
9   G.S. 115C-81.90."
10   **SECTION 3.(b)** G.S. 115C-238.66(1) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision
11 to read:
12   "f.   The board of directors shall ensure that computer science instruction
13   is provided as required by G.S. 115C-81.90."
14   **SECTION 3.(c)** G.S. 116-239.8(b)(2) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision
15 to read:
16   "e.   The chancellor shall ensure that computer science instruction is
17   provided as required by G.S. 115C-81.90."
18   **SECTION 3.(d)**   Section 6(d) of S.L. 2018-32 is amended by adding a new
19 subdivision to read:
20   "(4b)   G.S. 115C-81.90, Computer science."
21   **SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
22 law.