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Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Finance Resources Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Support House Bill 1153

**Public High Schools – Mathematics Credit – Computer Science
and Computer Programming**

House Ways and Means Committee

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce HB 1153 entitled “Public High Schools – Mathematics Credit Requirement – Computer Science and Computer Programming.”

This bill seeks to enable county boards of education to allow computer science or computer programming to satisfy the graduation requirement for one of the math credits. I would like to make clear that this bill would allow localities to adopt this procedure, but would not mandate changes in curriculum.

According to Code.org research, there are currently 633,501 open computing jobs nationwide. We have heard testimony several times this year where there are between 15 – 20,000 open computing jobs in Maryland. These jobs are high paying jobs well over double the average annual salary of other positions.

This trend is growing in the United States. Last year, I testified that the data showed 25 states allowed these classes to count toward the graduation requirement. According to Code.org 40 out of 50 states allow a computer science class to count toward a math graduation requirement. 48 states plus the District of Columbia allow math or science to count toward a graduation requirement.

It is important to take this step because it places value on these classes. Included with my testimony are links below that outline computer science trends state-by-state, both as a snapshot and with detailed descriptions. These trends align with much of what we have heard during our discussions of the Kirwan Commission. Passing this bill would be a great first step in implementation of those goals. Doing this now will provide an opportunity for our students to hopefully get access to these important skills right away as other measures are implemented.

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We live in a technology driven society and almost every aspect of our personal and professional lives require computer skills. Exposing our children to computer science and programming will provide them with options and exciting career paths that will provide them with the opportunity for success. 90 percent of parents would like to have these opportunities for their children.

I have worked as a technical recruiter for almost 11 years. It goes without question that the hardest positions to fill are in those in the computer science and programming arena. The average salary for these positions can range from the mid 60's - at the entry level - to \$125,000 or more at the senior level in the defense sector. Those numbers have been trending higher in the commercial sector.

If this bill is passed allowing local school boards to implement these classes, I believe we will expose all interested students to computer science and programming classes and in turn will provide a more comprehensive education that will result in greater opportunities and a more adequately prepared workforce.

I recommend you explore the following links to learn more about this subject:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTIZJaNtmPRBNb7_ZFHBxsGwyZqBSdpJN0iJ_pOgF-K-MNYikEeKTTj49ezDkMFRb1C_1w45gSrkcq6/pub

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YtTVcpQXoZz0lchihwGOihaCNeqCz2HyLwaXYpyb2SQ/pubhtml#>

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and again I ask for a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 1153**.

Respectfully,

Delegate April Rose