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Legislative District 5
Carroll County

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

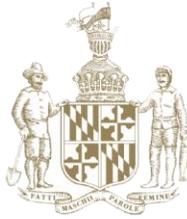
Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Racing and Gaming Subcommittee

Chair

Carroll County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Support House Bill 1280

**Public Schools – Mathematics Credit – College Preparatory Computer Science
or Computer Programming Course**

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 1280.

This bill has passed both this committee and the House several times, but did not get a vote in the Senate.

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 option, but would not mandate changes in curriculum.

According to Code.org research, there are currently more than 627,763 open computing jobs nationwide. This is an *increase of 227,763 positions* since my testimony on this issue last year. We have heard consistently there are between 15,000 to 20,000 open computing jobs in Maryland. These are high paying jobs, well over double the average annual salary of other positions.

Women who try Computer Science in high school are 10 times more likely to choose this as a major. Black and Latino students are seven times more likely. This trend continues to grow in the United States.

Last year, I testified that 40 out of 50 states allow a computer science or computer programming class to count toward a math or science graduation requirement. That number has increase to *48 out of 50 states*. Maryland needs to join this list.

It is important to take this step because it places value on these classes. Included with my testimony are links that will outline the computer science trends state-by-state both as a snapshot and with detailed descriptions. These trends align with much of what we have passed in the Blueprint bill. But we cannot wait for full implementation. We need to do something now while the full plans are being developed. No child should lose this important opportunity.

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. More than 90 percent of parents would like to have this opportunity for their children.

I have worked as a technical recruiter for more than 12 years. It goes without question that the hardest positions to fill are those in the computer science and computer programming arena. The average starting salary for a basic Help Desk Technician is between \$60,000 and \$65,000 per year. As these careers progress, the average salaries are well over six figures in the defense sector. Recently those salaries 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 for our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I again ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully,



Delegate April Rose
District 5, Carroll County

