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LRB101 20837 LAW 70610 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Computing technology is an integral part of modern
3 culture and is transforming how people interact with each other
4 and the world around them; and

5 WHEREAS, Computer science builds students' computational,
6 critical thinking, and deeper learning skills, which enables
7 them to understand and create, instead of simply using, the
8 next generation of technological tools; and

9 WHEREAS, Computer science is transforming industry,
10 bolstering productivity in established economic sectors, and
11 driving job creation and innovation throughout our State's
12 economy; and

13 WHEREAS, Providing access to computer science education is
14 a critical step toward ensuring that Illinois remains
15 competitive in the global economy and strengthens its
16 cybersecurity; and

17 WHEREAS, The outlook for computer science jobs is bright,
18 with over 500,000 open computing positions across the country;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Participation in high-quality computer science

1 activities exposes students to the rich opportunities the field
2 offers; and

3 WHEREAS, Computing occupations make up two-thirds of all
4 projected new jobs in STEM fields, making computer science one
5 of the most in-demand college majors; and

6 WHEREAS, Computer science education has challenges to
7 address, including counting computer science classes towards
8 high school graduation requirements and providing professional
9 development for computer science teachers; and

10 WHEREAS, There are fewer advanced placement (AP)
11 examinations taken in computer science than in any other STEM
12 subject area; and

13 WHEREAS, The field of computer science has significant
14 equity barriers to address, including attracting more
15 participation by females and underrepresented minorities to
16 all levels and branches; and

17 WHEREAS, Student exposure to computer science at a young
18 age has the potential to address the diversity gap in computer
19 science fields; and

20 WHEREAS, Girls who take an AP computer science course in

1 high school are 10 times more likely to major in computer
2 science in college; African American and Latino pupils who take
3 the course in high school are over seven times more likely to
4 major in computer science in college; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we declare the month of September 2020 as Computer Science
8 Education Month in the State of Illinois and encourage
9 cutting-edge professional development for computer science
10 teachers and exposure to computer science concepts for all
11 students, with opportunities provided for females and
12 underrepresented minorities.