1   AN ACT relating to creating a virtual computer science career academy.

2   *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3   ➔SECTION 1.   A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO

4   READ AS FOLLOWS:

5   *(1)   It is the intention of the General Assembly to increase the Commonwealth's*

6   *economic competitiveness in the technology and computing employment sector by*

7   *significantly increasing the capacity to educate and prepare high school students*

8   *for the technology workforce. A virtual computer science career academy shall be*

9   *established to expand access to accelerated, early college career pathways for*

10   *Kentucky high school students and prepare them for careers in computing,*

11   *particularly in the field of data science. Principal activities for developing,*

12   *coordinating, and implementing the academy shall be conducted by WeLeadCS, a*

13   *private, nonprofit corporation composed of leaders from education, government,*

14   *and technology and computing sector employers.*

15   *(2)   WeLeadCS may solicit, accept, receive, invest, and expend funds from any public*

16   *or private source for the purpose of implementing the provisions in this section.*

17   *(3)   WeLeadCS shall:*

18   *(a)   Establish a program in which Kentucky teachers provide virtual,*

19   *synchronous instruction for dual college credit computing courses to*

20   *accelerate students' completion of computer science degrees and*

21   *development of the academic knowledge, technical skills, and employability*

22   *skills necessary for careers in high-level computing occupations;*

23   *(b)   Collaborate with the Kentucky Center for Statistics to define workforce*

24   *needs and opportunities in the technology and computing sector in each*

25   *local workforce development area;*

26   *(c)   Develop the nation's first sequential high school career pathway preparing*

27   *students for careers in data science. The career pathway shall include*

1   *opportunities for students to earn industry certifications prioritized by*

2   *employers and college credit for courses that will culminate in accelerated*

3   *postsecondary degree completion;*

4   *(d)   Partner with employers in the technology and computing sector to provide a*

5   *work-based learning program to connect student learning to real-world*

6   *practices, expose students to a variety of career options with the technology*

7   *and computing sector, ensure students develop the tools necessary to*

8   *compete in the workforce, and provide opportunities for job shadowing,*

9   *internships, and apprenticeships;*

10   *(e)   Collaborate with employers, K-12 and postsecondary school educators, and*

11   *state education leaders to develop local and statewide initiatives to raise*

12   *awareness of career opportunities in the technology and computing sector,*

13   *particularly in data science;*

14   *(f)   Advise students in the virtual academy about Kentucky postsecondary*

15   *degree opportunities in computer science in demand by employers in the*

16   *technology and computing sector, transferring college credits earned*

17   *through the academy to expedite and reduce costs of college degree*

18   *completion, and aligning personal skills and academic abilities to*

19   *postsecondary degree requirements and employers' expectations;*

20   *(g)   Recruit and train Kentucky certified teachers to deliver high-quality,*

21   *synchronous virtual instruction and support students in a virtual learning*

22   *environment;*

23   *(h)   Coordinate with the Kentucky Department of Education, local school*

24   *districts, and postsecondary institutions to ensure compliance with statutes*

25   *and regulations governing student privacy, grading, articulation*

26   *agreements, student transcripts, and other administrative details; and*

27   *(i)   Submit an annual report to the Kentucky Board of Education and the*

1   *Legislative Research Commission on the academy including but not limited*

2   *to student enrollment, course completion, college credit hours earned,*

3   *industry certifications earned, and student matriculation to postsecondary*

4   *institutions.*