LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS

Bill Number: SB 148   **51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014**

Tracking Number: .195610.2

Short Title: Computer Programming as School Language

Sponsor(s): Senator Jacob Candelaria

Analyst: Travis Dulany   **Date: February 15, 2014**

Bill Summary:

SB 148 amends the provisions of the *Public School Code* relating to courses of instruction and school programs to allow for:

- beginning in school year 2014-2015, school districts to offer a course in a modern, widely used computer programming language to satisfy "language other than English" requirements; and
- students entering the 9th grade in school year 2014-2015 to count a course in a modern, widely used computer programming language as a "language other than English" in grades 9-12.

Fiscal Impact:

SB 148 does not contain an appropriation.

Substantive Issues:

The Public Education Department notes that nothing prohibits a course in computer programming language from being offered for credit in public high schools, and these classes could be offered as part of a career/technical program of study, or potentially to meet the language other than English requirement.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SPAC

Related Bills:

SB 5 *Allow Sign Language for Graduation*
SB 8a *Resident Tuition for Some Undergrad Students*
*SB 161 *Science Early Education Program*
*HB 66 *School Graduation & Diploma Requirements*
HB 330 *Diploma Seal of Bilingualism*