Proposed legislation establishes the Computer Science Education Act. Requires the formation of a commission to provide recommendations to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for the development and implementation of a state action plan for the delivery of education in computer science in all public schools. Requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to provide staff support for the commission. Provides for the commission’s reporting requirements to BESE. Requires BESE to establish a state action plan for computer science education for kindergarten through grade twelve. Requires LDE to establish a grant program to assist in the creation and expansion of computer science courses in public schools. Requires LDE to function as a computer science education clearinghouse. Requires LDE to review and recommend computer science education resources. Provides that the state action plan established pursuant to proposed legislation. Effective upon governor’s signature.

There will be increased costs to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to establish a grant program and computer science education clearinghouse pursuant to the proposed legislation. LDE reports this will require $496,184 per year. Additional funding will be needed to fund grants pursuant to the grant program established by LDE; this cost is indeterminable and subject to legislative appropriations.

The LDE reports it will require $441,152 per year to create three (3) Education Program Consultant 3 positions ($216,030 salaries and $97,213 related benefits) and one (1) Education Program Consultant 5A position ($86,213 salary and $39,696 related benefits) to create and staff a Computer Science Section within its Division of Academic Content. This Computer Science Section will be responsible for establishing and administering the grants program, and for developing and maintaining the computer science education clearinghouse. It will also require $5,032 per year in operating expenses ($1,108 in travel expenses + $150 in supplies x 4 new positions). Finally, LDE reports it will require $50,000 per year to host meetings and provide travel for ten teacher leader advisors to review and facilitate the publication of resources for the clearinghouse.

The LDE reports that implementing recommendations from the Computer Science Education Advisory Commission created by the proposed legislation may require additional positions; however, this is indeterminable at this time.

Local school districts may experience increased costs for any required training associated with the proposed legislation, hardware and software acquisitions for expanded implementation of computer science courses, and faculty positions for computer science teachers if required by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (BESE) state action plan for providing computer science education. The impact to school districts is indeterminable at this time.

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.