

March 24, 2005

S 1052. BUSINESS EDUC. TECH. ALLIANCE LEGISLATION. TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE. Calls for various studies and other actions concerning education and technology, and makes several related appropriations.

Requires State Board of Education, UNC Board of Governors, Independent Colleges and Universities, and State Board of Community Colleges to develop E-learning standards and plans for infrastructures that provide virtual learning opportunities accessible to students and other citizens through all NC schools, universities, and community colleges. State Board of Education is to focus initially on high schools in developing the public school plan, while also researching and developing, where appropriate, E-learning for lower grades. E-learning programs are to support both teachers and students. Appropriates \$150,000 for 2005-06 from General Fund to Dep't of Public Instruction, for use by State Board of Education to establish and implement a pilot virtual high school during the 2005-06 school year. States General Assembly's intent (1) to give public schools the highest E-learning funding and development priority, using a new appropriation, and (2) to provide funding to implement virtual high school on a statewide basis for 2006-07 school year if pilot program is successful.

Appropriates \$100,000 for 2005-06 from General Fund to NC Rural Economic Development Center to fund a feasibility study by the E-NC initiative and the Center on developing regional education networks that are centrally managed to provide and sustain broadband connectivity to individual students and teachers in schools, community colleges, and universities. Specifies guidelines for the study, including collaboration with school, university, and community college representatives, and requires that the Center and the E-NC Initiative report the study results to the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Requires State Board of Education and the State Chief Information Officer to study and identify the types of resources needed to operate schools designed to meet the needs of 21st century learners and specifies requirements concerning Local Education Agency School Technology Plans. State Board is to report study results to the 2006 Regular Session.

Requires NC Board of Science and Technology to provide an annual report by county on the status of trends that reflect the impact of education on economic growth for the 21st century. Requires Department of Public Instruction to provide assistance with E-rate applications, as specified in bill, and to report annually on E-rate to State Board of Education.

Requires Office of State Management and Budget to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a State Central Infrastructure Office that would collect and manage information for technology, water, sewer, and other utility infrastructures needed to assist communities in becoming and remaining economically viable. Office is to report its study results to the 2006 legislative session. Report is to include legislative proposals, including a proposal to define the term "infrastructure" in the General Statutes to include technology.

Effective July 1, 2005.

Intro. by Garrou.

Ref. to Education

APPROP, STUDY

April 19, 2005

S 1052. BUSINESS EDUC. TECH. ALLIANCE LEGISLATION. Intro. 3/24/05. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. (1) Adds a definitions section. (2) Codifies portions of the bill's provisions for a Plan for Projecting School Technology Funding Needs in new GS 115C-102.6A(c)(17) and 115C-102.7(c).