

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 1052
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 4/19/05**

Short Title: Business Educ. Tech. Alliance Legislation.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 24, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS
3 EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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6 **PART I. DEFINITIONS**

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8 **SECTION 1.** The following definitions apply in this act:

- 9 (1) E-learning. – Electronic learning that includes a wide set of
10 applications and processes, such as Web-based learning,
11 computer-based learning, virtual classrooms, and digital collaboration.
12 It includes the delivery of content via Internet, intranet/extranet
13 (LAN/WAN), audiotape, videotape, satellite broadcast, interactive
14 television, and CD-ROM.
- 15 (2) e-NC Authority. – The e-NC Authority established in Part 2F of
16 Article 10 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes.
- 17 (3) E-Rate. – The mechanism to provide discount rates to support
18 universal telecommunications services for use by schools and libraries
19 as provided in section 254 of the federal Telecommunications Act of
20 1996.

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22 **PART II. PLAN AND FUNDING FOR A VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL**

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24 **SECTION 2.(a)** The State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of
25 The University of North Carolina, the Independent Colleges and Universities, and the
26 State Board of Community Colleges shall develop E-learning standards and plans for
27 infrastructures that provide virtual learning opportunities accessible to students and
28 other citizens through all North Carolina schools, universities, and community colleges.
29 In developing the plan for the public schools, the State Board of Education shall focus

1 initially on high schools while also researching and developing, where appropriate,
2 E-learning for middle schools, junior high schools, and elementary schools. E-learning
3 programs shall support both teachers and students.

4 **SECTION 2.(b)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to give public
5 schools the highest priority in funding for and development of E-learning. Funding for
6 E-learning should be a new appropriation and not come exclusively from existing funds.

7 **SECTION 2.(c)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
8 Department of Public Instruction the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars
9 (\$150,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The State Board of Education shall use these
10 funds to establish and implement during the 2005-2006 school year a pilot virtual high
11 school.

12 **SECTION 2.(d)** If the pilot program is successful, it is the intent of the
13 General Assembly to provide funding to implement a virtual high school on a statewide
14 basis for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

15 16 **PART III. FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR DEVELOPING REGIONAL** 17 **EDUCATION NETWORKS**

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19 **SECTION 3.(a)** The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center
20 and the e-NC Authority, in collaboration with representatives from local school
21 administrative units, The University of North Carolina, the State Board of Education,
22 the State Chief Information Officer, and the Community College System shall perform a
23 feasibility study on developing regional education networks that are centrally managed
24 to provide and sustain broadband connectivity to individual students and teachers in
25 schools, community colleges, and universities.

26 The study shall include an evaluation of existing technology infrastructures,
27 such as the statewide infrastructure, the North Carolina Research and Education
28 Network, or the regional infrastructure, Winston-Net. These state-of-the-art
29 infrastructures may be capable of supporting growth in traffic and thus serve as a
30 backbone infrastructure for delivering high-speed access to underserved regions.

31 The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center and the e-NC
32 Authority shall report the results of the study to the Regular 2006 Session of the 2005
33 General Assembly.

34 **SECTION 3.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North
35 Carolina Rural Economic Development Center the sum of one hundred thousand dollars
36 (\$100,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to perform the feasibility study pursuant to
37 subsection (a) of this section.

38 39 **PART IV. PLAN FOR PROJECTING SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY FUNDING** 40 **NEEDS**

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42 **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 115C-102.6A(c) reads as rewritten:

43 "(c) Components of the State school technology plan shall include at least the
44 following:

1 ...

2 (17) A baseline template for:

- 3 a. Technology infrastructure including broadband connectivity,
4 personnel recommendations, and other resources needed to
5 operate effectively from the classroom desktop to local,
6 regional, and State networks, and
7 b. An evaluation component that provides for local school
8 administrative unit accountability for maintaining quality
9 upgradeable systems."

10 **SECTION 4.(b)** Before November 2005, the Department of Public
11 Instruction shall hold regional workshops for local school administrative units to
12 provide guidance in developing local school system technology plans that meet the
13 criteria established in the State school technology plan, including the components added
14 under subsection (a) of this section. The State Chief Information Officer will assist with
15 the regional meetings as needed to provide technical assistance.

16 **SECTION 4.(c)** G.S. 115C-102.7 is amended by adding the following new
17 subsection to read:

18 "(c) The Department of Public Instruction shall randomly check local school
19 system technology plans to ensure that local school administrative units are
20 implementing their plans as approved. The Department shall report to the State Board of
21 Education and the State Chief Information Officer on which local school administrative
22 units are not complying with their plans. The report shall include the reasons these local
23 school administrative units are out of compliance and a recommended plan of action to
24 support each of these local school administrative units in carrying out their plans."

25 **SECTION 4.(d)** The State Board of Education shall determine the total
26 amount of funds needed for the recurring total cost of ownership to implement,
27 maintain, and upgrade technology infrastructures and instructional technology as
28 specified in the revised local school system technology plans. This shall include
29 personnel costs for both technical and instructional needs so that a three- to five-year
30 budget plan can be developed for the General Assembly.

31 **SECTION 4.(e)** The State Board of Education also shall study and identify
32 the types of resources needed to operate schools designed to meet the needs of twenty-
33 first century learners.

34 The State Board shall report the results of this study to the Regular 2006
35 Session of the 2005 General Assembly.

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37 **PART V. ANNUAL REPORT THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPACT OF**
38 **EDUCATION PREPARATION ON ECONOMIC GROWTH**

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40 **SECTION 5.** The North Carolina Board of Science and Technology shall
41 provide an annual report by county on the status of trends that reflect the impact of
42 education on economic growth for the twenty-first century. This report shall be
43 available for citizens and shall contain information about the status of each county with
44 regard to education and economic growth.

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2 **PART VI. PROCESS FOR MORE ASSISTANCE FOR E-RATE**
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4 **SECTION 6.** In order to provide assistance to local school administrative
5 units with E-rate applications, the Department of Public Instruction shall, within
6 existing funds, ensure that a minimum of one full-time coordinator who has technical
7 knowledge and skills is assigned this responsibility. The Department shall notify local
8 school administrative units about the person or office assigned the responsibility of
9 providing assistance with E-rate applications.

10 The Department shall provide the State Board of Education with an annual
11 report on E-rate, including funding, commitments, and enrollment by local school
12 administrative units.
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14 **PART VII. PLANNING FOR A STATE CENTRAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
15 **OFFICE**
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17 **SECTION 7.(a)** The Office of State Budget and Management shall conduct
18 a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a State Central Infrastructure Office
19 that would collect and manage information for technology, water, sewer, and other
20 utility infrastructures needed to assist communities in becoming and remaining
21 economically viable.

22 **SECTION 7.(b)** The Office of State Budget and Management shall report
23 the results of this study to the Regular 2006 Session of the 2005 General Assembly.
24 The report shall include legislative proposals, including a proposal to define the term
25 "infrastructure" in the General Statutes to include technology.
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27 **PART VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE**
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29 **SECTION 8.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.