

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2013**

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**HOUSE BILL 44\***

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Short Title: Transition to Digital Learning in Schools. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Horn, Johnson, Saine, and Tolson (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

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Referred to: Education.

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February 4, 2013

1                           **A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

2   AN ACT STATING THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO TRANSITION  
3   FROM FUNDING TEXTBOOKS TO FUNDING DIGITAL LEARNING IN THE  
4   PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
5   COMMISSION STUDY COMMITTEE ON DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS  
6   IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

7       Whereas, local school administrative units (LEAs) have used a number of  
8   approaches to provide or access digital learning devices; and

9       Whereas, these approaches include the diversion and restructuring of current  
10   funding, use of private grants, parental contributions, local funding, and  
11   "bring-your-own-device" policies; and

12     Whereas, educational materials in the form of digital textbooks and instructional  
13   resources have also become increasingly available and can benefit North Carolina students in  
14   elementary, middle, and high school grades by providing high-quality, up-to-date information  
15   that can be customized for individual students throughout their educational experience; and

16     Whereas, LEAs may currently use textbook funding for digital instructional  
17   materials and digital textbooks; and

18     Whereas, digital textbooks and instructional resources have proven to be tools that,  
19   when used effectively, can raise the level of academic performance of the State's students; and

20     Whereas, the use of online and blended courses can provide greater access to  
21   courses for students in subject areas that might otherwise be unavailable in many regions of the  
22   State; and

23     Whereas, online courses and blended instruction may also provide students with  
24   opportunities for credit recovery, earning college credit, and coursework in career and technical  
25   education; and

26     Whereas, LEAs should explore the competitive environment for innovative  
27   practices, including virtual learning, that blend technology, digital devices, online learning, and  
28   traditional resources in classroom instruction; and

29     Whereas, LEAs should implement available and appropriate high-quality virtual,  
30   digital, and instructional resources that align with the curriculum; Now therefore,  
31   The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

32                           **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the General Assembly to transition from funding for  
33   textbooks, both traditional and digital, to funding for digital materials, including textbooks and



1 instructional resources, to provide educational resources that remain current, aligned with  
2 curriculum, and effective for all learners by 2017.

3       **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.