

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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HOUSE BILL 701

Short Title: IT Purchasing/Convenience Contracts. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Saine and Tolson (Primary Sponsors).

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

Referred to: Government.

April 11, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PROVIDING THAT PUBLIC AGENCIES MAY PURCHASE INFORMATION
3 TECHNOLOGY GOODS AND SERVICES THROUGH CONVENIENCE CONTRACTS
4 APPROVED BY THE STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 (1) Convenience contract. – An agreement between two or more states
8 providing that the states will enter into purchase orders jointly for
9 information technology goods and services in order to increase economies of
10 scale and reduce costs.

11 (2) Public agency. – Includes all of the following entities:

- 12 a. An agency, department, or institutions in the executive, judicial, or
13 legislative branches of State government.
14 b. A city, county, or other local political subdivision of the State.
15 c. A local board of education, community college, or The University of
16 North Carolina.

17 **SECTION 2.** In addition to other procurement methods and procedures allowed
18 by law, public agency purchasing entities may elect to purchase information technology goods
19 and services through a convenience contract awarded pursuant to a nationally recognized and
20 accepted cooperative purchasing agreement in which other states participate; provided that the
21 agreement was developed using a competitive bidding process and the agreement has been
22 approved by the State Chief Information Officer (State CIO).

23 **SECTION 3.** The State CIO shall review the specifications and terms and
24 conditions of information technology convenience contracts before the contracts may be
25 utilized by public agencies. Upon approval by the State CIO, a public agency may use the
26 nationally cooperative purchasing agreement without further State CIO approval. Public
27 agencies shall report to the State CIO periodically on the utilization of convenience contracts.

28 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

