

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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SENATE BILL 121*

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

Sponsors: Senators Soucek, Hise, Rucho (Primary Sponsors); Bingham, Brock, Brown,
Curtis, J. Davis, Goolsby, Meredith, Newton, and Randleman.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

February 21, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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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.