

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.B. 1097  
Apr 29, 2026  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40678-MCa-205

Short Title: Government Website Access Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Reives.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION  
3 TECHNOLOGY FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVING  
4 ACCESS TO STATE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES AND TO PROMOTE WORKFORCE  
5 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TARGETED TO ADULTS, VETERANS, AND  
6 PERSONS PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED SEEKING REENTRY INTO  
7 EMPLOYMENT MARKETS.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the Information Technology Reserve  
10 established in Section 2.2(h) of S.L. 2021-180 to the Department of Information Technology the  
11 sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to  
12 be used to develop an artificial intelligence assistant to improve navigation and accessibility of  
13 information available on State agency websites. The Department shall prioritize assistance to  
14 improve availability of information regarding, and improve connectivity between, the various  
15 workforce development resource websites offered both by the State and by local governments.  
16 In order to build familiarity and user recognition, the Department shall consider names for the  
17 artificial intelligence assistant that are memorable and relatable to the State.

18 SECTION 2.(a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
19 Commerce the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027  
20 fiscal year for the Department to use to provide directed grants to local workforce development  
21 boards for the design and implementation of innovative workforce programs designed to help  
22 veterans attain new job skills necessary for reintegration into the job market. The Department  
23 shall develop guidelines regarding (i) qualifications for local workforce development boards to  
24 qualify for a directed grant and (ii) terms for grants and programs developed by those boards.

25 SECTION 2.(b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
26 Commerce the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027  
27 fiscal year for the Department to use to provide directed grants to local workforce development  
28 boards for the design and implementation of innovative workforce programs designed to help  
29 persons previously incarcerated attain new job skills necessary for reintegration into the job  
30 market. The Department shall develop guidelines regarding (i) qualifications for local workforce  
31 development boards to qualify for a directed grant and (ii) terms for grants and programs  
32 developed by those boards.

33 SECTION 3. There is appropriated from the Information Technology Reserve  
34 established in Section 2.2(h) of S.L. 2021-180 to the Department of Information Technology the  
35 sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the



\* D R H 4 0 6 7 8 - M C A - 2 0 5 \*

- 1 2026-2027 fiscal year to be used to support professional development by promoting career  
2 planning tools designed for working adults.  
3 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2026.