

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE DRS85279-LR-100 (03/08)**

Short Title: BEACON/Data Integration Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Cowell.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENTERPRISE APPROACH  
3 TO THE STATE'S ABILITY TO EFFICIENTLY RETRIEVE AND SHARE  
4 DATA AND INFORMATION IN STATE GOVERNMENT; ENABLE STATE  
5 LEADERS, POLICYMAKERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE PUBLIC  
6 TO ACCESS TIMELY, COMPLETE, AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON  
7 GOVERNMENTAL AND PROGRAMMATIC OPERATIONS; AND ENHANCE  
8 THE ABILITY TO BETTER IDENTIFY AND UNDERSTAND ISSUES AND TO  
9 MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

10       Whereas, advances in North Carolina State government's information  
11 technology capabilities are vitally important for effectively and efficiently meeting the  
12 needs of the State's rapidly growing population; and

13       Whereas, by improving the capacity of State agencies and units of those  
14 agencies, as well as local governments, to readily access and share vital information, the  
15 State and local governments can achieve greater effectiveness and substantial financial  
16 savings in operations, rapidly recovering the investment necessary to accomplish this  
17 initiative; and

18       Whereas, with improved access to timely, complete, and accurate information  
19 the members of the General Assembly and leadership in State agencies can enhance  
20 their abilities to make the best policy and operational decisions on behalf of the people  
21 of the State, with fewer decisions based on instinct or guesswork; and

22       Whereas, through this initiative, State leaders, whether at the Legislature or  
23 within the Executive Branch, can have greater insight into the performance of State  
24 agencies, the effectiveness of State programs, and the true cost and benefits of  
25 implementing and maintaining State projects; and

26       Whereas, as a compass assists in finding direction, improved access to  
27 information across State government will assist State leaders in obtaining the necessary

1 information quickly in order to determine best direction for the State and its people;  
2 Now, therefore,

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** The Office of State Controller in cooperation with the State  
5 Chief Information Officer shall by January 31, 2008, develop a comprehensive plan for  
6 the integration of databases and the sharing of information among State agencies,  
7 operations, and programs. This plan shall be developed and implemented under the  
8 governance of the BEACON Project Steering Committee and in cooperation and in  
9 communication with leadership within the several State agencies, and with the support  
10 and cooperation of the Office of State Budget and Management, and shall set forth a  
11 schedule of implementation to be completed no later than the year 2010. This schedule  
12 of implementation shall commence no later than January 31, 2008, with the integration  
13 of databases that the BEACON PCS identify as most crucial to the enhancement of  
14 operations and effectiveness, focusing on two or three State agencies that can achieve  
15 the greatest initial benefit from implementation.

16 While it is the intent that this initiative provides a broad new access to  
17 information across State government, the plan shall comply with all necessary security  
18 measures and restrictions to ensure that access to any specific information held  
19 confidential under federal and State law shall be limited to appropriate and authorized  
20 persons.

21 By January 31, 2008, the Office of the State Controller, with the support of  
22 the State's Chief Information Officer, shall provide this comprehensive plan including  
23 implementation schedule in an oral report to the Joint Legislative Commission on  
24 Governmental Operations and in a written report to the Chairs of the Senate  
25 Appropriations Committee and the House of Representatives Appropriations  
26 Committee, the Chairs of the Senate Information Technology Committee and House  
27 Science and Technology Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division.

28 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the NC  
29 Enterprise IT Fund the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the 2007-2008  
30 fiscal year for the purpose of accomplishing the implementation of business analytics  
31 and database integration across State agencies as identified in Section 1 of this act, and  
32 shall be used for no other purpose. The Office of State Controller, in coordination with  
33 State agencies and with the support of the Office of State Budget and Management,  
34 shall identify and obtain any federal matching funds or other funding sources available  
35 to assist in funding this initiative.

36 **SECTION 3.** The Office of State Controller shall provide a written report of  
37 the plan's implementation progress, including benefits and return on investment analysis  
38 as identified by the Office of State Budget and Management to the Chairs of the Senate  
39 Appropriations Committee and the House of Representatives Appropriations  
40 Committee, the Chairs of the Senate Information Technology Committee and House  
41 Science and Technology Committee, and Fiscal Research Division no later than the date  
42 the convening of the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

43 **SECTION 4.** The Compass Initiative funds shall be used to integrate  
44 databases by leveraging the BEACON project which has prototyped data integration

1 software. The Compass Initiative should expand upon the existing statewide enterprise  
2 license for data integration in order to take advantage of best practices learned from the  
3 BEACON project as well as the enterprise licensing cost reductions and efficiencies.  
4 Funds may also be used to retain project management support. This effort shall not  
5 place any new or additional requirements upon The University of North Carolina or the  
6 North Carolina Community College System.

7 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.