

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

S

1

SENATE BILL 1552

Short Title: BEACON/Data Integration Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Cowell.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 28, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

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

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

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

41 **SECTION 4.** The Compass Initiative funds shall be used to integrate
42 databases by leveraging the BEACON project which has prototyped data integration
43 software. The Compass Initiative should expand upon the existing statewide enterprise
44 license for data integration in order to take advantage of best practices learned from the

1 BEACON project as well as the enterprise licensing cost reductions and efficiencies.
2 Funds may also be used to retain project management support. This effort shall not
3 place any new or additional requirements upon The University of North Carolina or the
4 North Carolina Community College System.

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