

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 1446\*  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/27/98

Short Title: Biometrics Technical Corrections.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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May 25, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING THE BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM TO MAKE NECESSARY TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 108A-25.1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 108A-25.1. Recipient identification system.**

(a) The Department shall establish and maintain a uniform system in the Department and in all counties of identifying all Work First, food stamp, child care, and medical assistance program recipients, recipients, applicants, and payees, except those who are institutionalized adults and children under the age of 18 unless they are minor parents who are applying for or receiving assistance. This system shall provide security and portability throughout the State and between the departments within the State involved in means-tested public assistance programs and shall have the capability of identifying recipients of assistance from all means-tested programs administered or funded through the Department.

1 (b) The identification system established in this section shall use multiple  
2 biometrics to ensure greater than ninety-nine percent (99%) accuracy for  
3 interdepartmental identification.

4 (c) The Department shall ensure that the biometric identification system will be  
5 compatible with any existing departmental biometric identification system.

6 (d) The Department shall make biometric identification a condition of eligibility  
7 for Work First, food stamp, child care, and medical assistance programs for all recipients,  
8 applicants, and payees, described in subsection (a) of this section. If any recipient,  
9 applicant, or payee is denied assistance on the basis of the identification system  
10 established in this section, the recipient's, applicant's, or payee's whole case, or group of  
11 individuals whose eligibility for public assistance is dependent on all the other group  
12 members' financial and nonfinancial situation, shall be denied assistance."

13 Section 2. Section 12.35 of S.L. 1997-443 reads as rewritten:

14 "Section 12.35. The Department of Health and Human Services shall have the  
15 uniform system of recipient identification established in G.S. 108A-25.1 in place and  
16 operating ~~before October 1, 1998.~~ as soon as possible after federal approval of the phase-in  
17 process. The Department shall implement the start of the phase-in process no later than  
18 October 1, 1999. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, this Part is effective when it  
19 becomes law."

20 Section 3. Funds appropriated by S.L. 1997-443 to the Department of Health  
21 and Human Services and the Office of State Budget and Management for the Biometrics  
22 Recipient Identification System for the 1997-98 fiscal year shall not revert but shall  
23 remain available to the Department for this purpose.

24 Section 4. Section 3 of this act becomes effective June 30, 1998. The  
25 remainder of this act is effective upon becoming law.