

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS75298-LE-158* (3/1)

Short Title: Comm.-Based Info & Tech System/3 Counties. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Berger of Franklin, and Kerr.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR AN ADVANCED
2 COMMUNITY-BASED INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY
3 COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR VANCE, WARREN, AND GREENE
4 COUNTIES.
5

6 Whereas, Vance, Warren, and Greene Counties are working collaboratively to
7 find solutions for student graduation rates and adequate yearly progress, poverty,
8 unemployment, and economic instability in the counties; and

9 Whereas, there is a need for the education, local government, and industry
10 leadership to come together to determine possible solutions and plan effective strategies
11 to meet each county's specific challenges; and

12 Whereas, a common goal for each of the counties is to take advantage of
13 technology to break through their rural barriers and join the 21st Century economy and
14 opportunities for their citizens; and

15 Whereas, their goal is to (i) connect citizens through access to the Internet,
16 (ii) effectively plan for the maximum value of Internet access, and (iii) determine an
17 advanced community-based ICT (Information and Communication Technology)
18 Internet solution that provides a measurable value to the citizens and communities of
19 these three counties; and

20 Whereas, each county is working individually with the State to review and
21 assist with Internet connectivity to its communities; and

22 Whereas, collaboratively, the three counties want to plan and implement an
23 advanced community-based information and technology communication system that is
24 unique and customized to county requirements; Now, therefore,

25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
27 Department of Commerce the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the

1 2007-2008 fiscal year for an advanced community-based information and technology
2 communication system for Vance, Warren, and Greene Counties. The system shall be
3 designed to empower citizens and communities through technology and the Internet
4 with the following capabilities:

- 5 (1) Target specific citizen requirements – students, those changing careers,
6 those on social services, retirees, and entrepreneurs.
- 7 (2) Measure system utilization.
 - 8 a. Track and report at a citizen level by tracking (i) interaction,
9 utilization, (ii) system access, (iii) learning events assigned,
10 taken, completed, and (iv) job opportunities interviewed, offers,
11 acceptances.
 - 12 b. Track and report at a community level or subset.
- 13 (3) Provide an individual portal for each participant.
- 14 (4) Use participant profile of demographics, status, and interests to
15 populate each participant's Web portal with (i) relevant news, (ii)
16 learning events, (iii) news, (iv) community announcements, and (v)
17 assessments of knowledge, skills, aptitude, and personality.
- 18 (5) Provide online mentoring, guidance, and interaction for the best
19 utilization of the system.
- 20 (6) Provide access to learning content including online courses, video,
21 audio, and created content.
- 22 (7) Ability to align learning content with participant profile information.
- 23 (8) Ability to create and meta-tag learning content for use by participants.
- 24 (9) Participant virtual interaction with identified individuals with expert
25 knowledge in various occupations and industries based on participant
26 interest through (i) virtual application sharing, (ii) VOIP (voice over
27 IP) capabilities; (iii) polling, and webinars (one to many or one-to-one
28 interaction).
- 29 (10) Industry participation through (i) posting and tracking participant
30 opportunities including internships, job shadowing, part-time and
31 full-time jobs, and (ii) online virtual interviews.
- 32 (11) Management processes for online guidance and expert resources.
- 33 (12) Security processes determining acceptability of content and guidance
34 and expert resources.
- 35 (13) Planning and training processes and resources to ensure success.
- 36 (14) Ability for each community to connect and share resources
37 (knowledge content, mentors, etc.) with other identified communities.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.