

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

S

1

SENATE BILL 685*

Short Title: IDS Efficiency Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lee, Newton (Primary Sponsors); Daniel and Randleman.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 30, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE OFFICE OF INDIGENT DEFENSE
2 SERVICES BY APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF
3 AUTOMATED KIOSKS IN CERTAIN LOCAL CONFINEMENT FACILITIES TO
4 ALLOW ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING INDIGENT DEFENDANTS TO CONSULT
5 WITH THEIR CLIENTS REMOTELY.
6

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of
9 Indigent Defense Services the sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars (\$1,600,000)
10 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year to establish a system of fully automated kiosks in certain local
11 confinement facilities to allow attorneys representing indigent defendants to consult with their
12 clients remotely, thereby saving the time and expense of traveling to and from those facilities.
13 The system shall incorporate technology through which meetings between attorneys and their
14 clients cannot be monitored or recorded, thereby preserving confidentiality.

15 **SECTION 2.** The savings realized through the use of this system shall be used at
16 the discretion of the Commission on Indigent Defense Services to (i) continue funding for the
17 use of the kiosk system or (ii) increase the rates paid by the Office of Indigent Defense Services
18 to private assigned counsel during the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium and provide comparable
19 increases for contract attorneys during the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium.

20 **SECTION 3.** The Office of Indigent Defense Services shall report on the
21 establishment and use of the kiosk system provided for in this act and the corresponding
22 cost-savings to the Chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public
23 Safety, the Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and
24 the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety by
25 February 1 of each year.

26 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.

