

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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HOUSE BILL 1452*

Short Title: BEACON/Data Integration Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Goforth, Tolson, Holliman (Primary Sponsors); Cole, Owens, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 16, 2007

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.