

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**

**S**

**1**

**SENATE BILL 1441**

Short Title: e-NC/Request NC Pilot for LifeLine OnLine. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Queen; Atwater, Berger of Franklin, Davis, Dickson, Kinnaird, McKissick, and Snow.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 27, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT DIRECTING THE E-NC AUTHORITY TO FILE A REQUEST FOR NORTH  
2 CAROLINA TO BE A PILOT STATE IN THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
3 COMMISSION LIFELINE ONLINE PROGRAM TO EXTEND BROADBAND ACCESS.

4       Whereas, since the mid 1990s, North Carolina has participated in the LifeLine  
5 Link-Up program that provides funding for low-wealth households to receive telephone  
6 services as part of a partnership with the telecommunications companies in the State and the  
7 Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and

8       Whereas, low-wealth households that receive such federal and State assistance must  
9 also pay a share of the access charges and meet the federal guidelines for assistance; and

10       Whereas, the telecommunications companies provide the monthly oversight of the  
11 households for billing and there is a current tax credit of \$3.50 per line in North Carolina for  
12 telephone access; and

13       Whereas, the National Broadband Plan submitted by the FCC to Congress in March  
14 2010, recommended a redesign of the current LifeLine Link-Up program to enable a pilot in  
15 states for broadband Internet access, with this program known as LifeLine Online; and

16       Whereas, a number of citizens of North Carolina do not currently have access to  
17 broadband Internet service and would benefit from financial assistance from the FCC to  
18 purchase a minimum service; and

19       Whereas, the LifeLine Online pilot program would be State revenue neutral; Now,  
20 therefore,

21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22       **SECTION 1.** The e-NC Authority shall file an application for North Carolina to  
23 become a pilot state in the LifeLine Online program administered by the Federal  
24 Communications Commission (FCC). The e-NC Authority shall develop the cooperative  
25 public-private relationships necessary to facilitate a successful application. If pilot status is  
26 awarded to North Carolina by the FCC, the e-NC Authority (i) shall be responsible for  
27 implementation of the program and (ii) shall coordinate with other State agencies for a  
28 successful program.

29       **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the e-NC Authority  
30 the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to support its  
31 efforts pursuant to this act.  
32

