

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 45*
Committee Substitute Favorable 2/13/13

Short Title: Internet Access for Public Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 4, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INVENTORY OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT
ROBUST DIGITAL LEARNING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AS RECOMMENDED
BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION STUDY COMMITTEE ON
DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Whereas, digital learning is becoming an integral component of a 21st Century
education for all students in all schools across North Carolina; and

Whereas, effective digital learning requires a variety of resources, including
infrastructure requirements, digital devices, educational software, high-quality teachers, and
perhaps most essentially, reliable Internet connectivity; and

Whereas, while all LEAs currently have Internet access, wireless access on a school
building level may be either unavailable or unreliable due to funding or infrastructure
limitations; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The State Board of Education shall establish a standard for sufficient
classroom wireless connectivity for a digital learning environment and conduct an inventory of
the wireless access and bandwidth capacity of each public school in the State based on that
standard.

The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education
Oversight Committee and to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Technology by
December 1, 2013, on the inventory results, its recommendations on ways to achieve a
sufficient standard of wireless access and bandwidth in all classrooms, and the cost of
achieving that standard.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
Public Instruction the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal
year to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.

