

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE DRS15395-LR-146 (05/14)**

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

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Queen.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

