

May 18, 2000

H 1611. RURAL INTERNET ACCESS AGENCY (=S 1343). *TO CREATE THE NORTH CAROLINA RURAL INTERNET ACCESS AGENCY.* Adds new Part 2D ("North Carolina Rural Internet Access Agency") to Art. 10 of GS Ch. 143B, creating cited agency. Agency will perform duties necessary to achieve goals of (1) local dial-up internet access provided from every telephone exchange within one year, (2) high-speed internet access available to every citizen of the state within three years, at prices in rural counties that are comparable to prices in other counties, (3) two pilot telework centers in enterprise tier one or two by Jan. 1, 2002, (4) significant increases in ownership of computers throughout the state, (5) accurate telecommunication information provided to the people of the state, (6) development of governmental internet applications to enhance interactions between citizens and government, and (7) open technology approaches employed to encourage all potential providers to participate in the implementation of high-speed internet access with no technology bias. Agency will be governed by board composed of the state's chief information officer, the chair of the NC Rural Economic Development Center, and the Sec'y of Commerce, and the following sixteen members appointed by the Governor: three from the largest telephone companies in the state; one from a rural telephone cooperative; one from a small independent telephone company; one from a competing local telephone exchange company certified by the utilities commission; one from an internet service provider; one from a cable television company doing business in a rural county; one from a commercial wireless communications carrier; and six representing business and education or other users from rural counties who provide education or health care to rural counties.

Intro. by Tolson and Baddour.

Ref. to Ways & Means	GS 143B
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