

March 27, 2003

**H 767. WARREN COUNTY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY.** *AUTHORIZING WARREN COUNTY TO CREATE A TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE GREATER TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TO CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES IN THE COUNTY.* As title indicates. Authority will consist of five members appointed by board of county comm'rs for two year terms. Authority may grant telecommunications franchises and offer for sale or lease at full or partial considerations telecommunications infrastructure or equipment to departments of the county government, citizens of the county, the county school board, or a department of an adjoining county if the actual cost of providing the equipment, infrastructure, or service does not exceed the cost of providing the equipment, infrastructure, or service. Defines telecommunications as high-speed, switched electrical or spectral transmission enabling users to originate and receive voice, data, graphics, and video. Authority may acquire real property by eminent domain under GS Ch. 40A (other than facilities or property owned by telephone company, electric company, or cable operator) and, with county comm'rs approval, make or enter into contracts and agreements to carry out its purpose. Establishment and operation of the Authority is a public purpose. Authorizes board of county comm'rs to appropriate funds to support Authority's establishment and operation. Requires that Authority be fiscally accountable to board of county comm'rs.

**Intro. by Fox.**

Ref. to Public Utilities	WARREN
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