

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 828

Short Title: IT Changes/Libraries & Telemedicine. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Saine, Brenden Jones, and Wray (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Insurance

April 13, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT MAKING CHANGES RELATED TO THE PROCUREMENT OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY GOODS AND SERVICES TO SUPPORT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
LIBRARIES AND PROVIDING FOR THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE
SERVICES VIA TELEMEDICINE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Section 8.14 of S.L. 2015-241 reads as rewritten:

"COLLABORATIVE PROCUREMENT

...
SECTION 8.14.(b) The Department of Public Instruction shall collaborate with the
Friday Institute for Educational Innovation of North Carolina State University to implement
public school cooperative purchasing agreements for the procurement of information
technology goods and services to support public schools. For purposes of this section, the
phrase "public school cooperative purchasing agreement" means an agreement implemented
pursuant to this section and available for local school administrative units, regional schools,
charter schools, or some combination thereof, and public and private libraries and
regional library systems, providing for collaborative or collective purchases of information
technology goods and services in order to leverage economies of scale and to reduce costs.

SECTION 8.14.(c) Each public school cooperative purchasing agreement shall be based
on a defined statewide information technology need to support education in the public
schools and public libraries. Each public school cooperative purchasing agreement
shall allow for equal access to technology tools and services and shall provide a standard
competitive cost throughout North Carolina for each tool or service. Public school cooperative
purchasing agreements shall follow State information technology procurement laws, rules, and
procedures.

...."
SECTION 2. Article 50 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by
adding a new section to read as follows:

"§ 58-50-305. Coverage for telemedicine services.

- (a) The following definitions apply in this section:
(1) Health benefit plan. - As defined in G.S. 58-3-167(a)(1).
(2) Telemedicine. - Two-way, real-time interactive communication between a
patient and physician or practitioner at a distant site. The term includes the
use of interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a
minimum, audio and video equipment.



1 (b) Every health benefit plan shall provide coverage for health care services that are
2 provided via telemedicine if the health care service would be covered were it provided through
3 in-person consultation or in-person delivery of services between an insured and a health care
4 provider. A health benefit plan may not exclude services provided via telemedicine from
5 coverage under the plan solely because the service is not provided through an in-person
6 consultation or in-person delivery of services."

7 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017.