

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 1092

Short Title: Computer Legal Research.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Martin of Guilford; Sands, Winner of Buncombe, Soles, Kerr, Hartsell, Folger, Marshall, Ballance, Johnson, Allran, Odom, Gulley, Daniel, and Seymour.

Referred to: Rules and Operation of the Senate.

May 10, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION TO STUDY
3 ISSUES RELATING TO COMPUTERIZED LEGAL RESEARCH OF GENERAL
4 LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, INCLUDING THE PROBLEM OF
5 INCORPORATING DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE WHICH CANNOT BE
6 SEARCHED IN THE DATABASE.

7 Whereas, G.S. 164-13(a)(3) directs the General Statutes Commission to make
8 a continuing study of all matters involved in the preparation and publication of modern
9 codes of law; and

10 Whereas, modern codes of law, to meet emerging technology that now is or
11 will soon be in the hands of the bar, must be available on computerized databases; and

12 Whereas, case law allows incorporation by reference of other documents in
13 legislative enactments and in administrative rules; and

14 Whereas, incorporation by reference is largely a tool to allow avoidance of
15 hard publication of lengthy documents, which may have graphic as well as text material;
16 and

17 Whereas, legal researchers using computerized databases of statutes and
18 administrative rules often do not have access to these secondary documents; and

19 Whereas, technology exists to allow adding these secondary documents to the
20 computer databases at far less relative cost than printing them at length; and

21 Whereas, the whole issue of access and publication of computer databases
22 needs to be debated; Now, therefore,

- 1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
2 Section 1. The General Statutes Commission shall study:
3 (1) Technology concerning computer access to the General Statutes and
4 administrative rules; and
5 (2) The feasibility, costs, and benefits of incorporating in the computer
6 databases documents incorporated by reference in the primary
7 material.
8 Sec. 2. The General Statutes Commission shall report its recommendations to
9 the General Assembly no later than January 1, 1995.
10 Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification.