

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE DRH60470-LL-185 (5/14)

Short Title: Teleconferencing Lab Analyst Testimony/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Moore.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT
3 PROGRAM FOR THE PROVISION OF COURTROOM TESTIMONY OF LAB
4 ANALYSTS BY VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TO DIRECT THE JUDICIAL
5 DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO STUDY THE
6 FEASIBILITY OF A STATEWIDE PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING TESTIMONY
7 IN THAT MANNER.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** The Administrative Office of the Courts shall conduct a pilot
10 program in District Court District 27B for the provision of State Bureau of Investigation
11 lab analyst testimony by videoconference. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
12 contrary, lab analysts with the State Bureau of Investigation may provide courtroom
13 testimony by means of videoconferencing to courtrooms in District Court District 27B
14 for purposes of participating in this pilot project.

15 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Judicial
16 Department the sum of one hundred eighteen thousand eight hundred seventy dollars
17 (\$118,870) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year for equipment and other expenses to conduct a
18 pilot program in District Court District 27B for the provision of SBI lab analyst
19 testimony by videoconference to courtrooms in District 27B.

20 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
21 Department of Justice the sum of forty-eight thousand four hundred fifty dollars
22 (\$48,450) for equipment, set-up charges, telecom charges, and other expenses
23 associated with providing lab analyst testimony by videoconference from the SBI
24 laboratory.

25 **SECTION 4.** The Judicial Department, in consultation and cooperation with
26 the Department of Justice, shall study the feasibility of statewide implementation of a
27 program to allow lab analysts with the State Bureau of Investigation to provide their

1 testimony establishing chain-of-custody and any other necessary courtroom testimony
2 by means of videoconferencing or other remote means. In conducting this study, the
3 departments shall determine the most efficient and cost-effective means of providing
4 such testimony and agree upon the appropriate equipment needed for the provision of
5 testimony in that manner. The departments shall report their findings and
6 recommendations to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees
7 on Justice and Public Safety and the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations
8 Committees by January 1, 2005.

9 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.