Short Title:	Funds for OAH.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senator Kerr.	
Referred to:	Appropriations/Base Budget.	

March 17, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE
3   HEARINGS TO UPGRADE AND DEVELOP COMPUTER SOFTWARE FOR
4   THE TRACKING OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND CONTESTED CASES
5   AND MAKING THAT INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.
6   Whereas, over the past four years, the Office of Administrative Hearings
7 (OAH) has lost sixteen percent of its permanent positions to budget cuts, which has had
8 a profound effect on the delivery of services and the administration of administrative
9 law, making it even more crucial to implement automated and searchable systems; and
10   Whereas, over the last several years, the Office of Administrative Hearings
11 has, through internal reviews and external studies, identified the need for a
12 comprehensive online rule-making tracking system for the State of North Carolina; and
13   Whereas, this rule-making tracking system will manage the demands of the
14 internal State rule-making process and meet the demand to provide the public with the
15 tools to track and participate in all stages of the rule-making process; and
16   Whereas, the Office of Administrative Hearings' statewide docket system for
17 contested cases is a legacy system and is in serious jeopardy of failing. This system
18 requires migration to current technology and requires enhancements to the internal
19 system and development for public access to the information relating to ongoing
20 contested cases and published decisions; and
21   Whereas, the move to Web-based applications requires current operating
22 systems that will work within the Web environment; Now, therefore,
23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
24   **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of
25 Administrative Hearings the sum of nine hundred seventy-eight thousand two hundred
26 sixty-three dollars ($978,263) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the sum of ninety-five
27 thousand three hundred twenty-six dollars ($95,326) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.
28 These funds shall be used to upgrade and develop new computer software and acquire
29 hardware to support the systems.

1   **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.