GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 374*

Short Title:	IDS Efficiency Act.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Representatives Zachary, Stam, Reives, and Faircloth (Primary Sponsors). *For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*	
Referred to:	Judiciary II, if favorable, Appropriations.	

March 30, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE OFFICE OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES BY APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF AUTOMATED KIOSKS IN CERTAIN LOCAL CONFINEMENT FACILITIES TO ALLOW ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING INDIGENT DEFENDANTS TO CONSULT WITH THEIR CLIENTS REMOTELY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of Indigent Defense Services the sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars ($1,600,000) for the 2015-2016 fiscal year to establish a system of fully automated kiosks in certain local confinement facilities to allow attorneys representing indigent defendants to consult with their clients remotely, thereby saving the time and expense of traveling to and from those facilities. The system shall incorporate technology through which meetings between attorneys and their clients cannot be monitored or recorded, thereby preserving confidentiality.

SECTION 2. The savings realized through the use of this system shall be used at the discretion of the Commission on Indigent Defense Services to (i) continue funding for the use of the kiosk system or (ii) increase the rates paid by the Office of Indigent Defense Services to private assigned counsel during the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium and provide comparable increases for contract attorneys during the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium.

SECTION 3. The Office of Indigent Defense Services shall report on the establishment and use of the kiosk system provided for in this act and the corresponding cost-savings to the Chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety by February 1 of each year.

SECTION 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.