

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 1446*

Short Title: Biometrics Technical Corrections.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Howard and Berry.

Referred to: Welfare Reform.

May 25, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING THE BIOMETRIC
2 IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM TO MAKE NECESSARY TECHNICAL
3 CORRECTIONS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC
4 ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. G.S. 108A-25.1 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 108A-25.1. Recipient identification system.**

9 (a) The Department shall establish and maintain a uniform system in the
10 Department and in all counties of identifying all Work First, food stamp, and medical
11 assistance program ~~recipients~~-recipients, except those who are institutionalized adults and
12 children under the age of 18. This system shall provide security and portability
13 throughout the State and between the departments within the State involved in means-
14 tested public assistance programs and shall have the capability of identifying recipients of
15 assistance from all means-tested programs administered or funded through the
16 Department.

17 (b) The identification system established in this section shall use multiple
18 biometrics to ensure greater than ninety-nine percent (99%) accuracy for
19 interdepartmental identification.

1 (c) The Department shall ensure that the biometric identification system will be
2 compatible with any existing departmental biometric identification system.

3 (d) The Department shall make biometric identification a condition of eligibility
4 for Work First, food stamp, and medical assistance programs for all recipients described
5 in subsection (a) of this section. If any recipient is denied assistance on the basis of the
6 identification system established in this section, the recipient's whole case, or group of
7 recipients whose eligibility for public assistance is dependent on all the other group
8 members' financial and nonfinancial situation, shall be denied assistance."

9 Section 2. Section 12.35 of S.L. 1997-443 reads as rewritten:

10 "Section 12.35. The Department of Health and Human Services shall have the
11 uniform system of recipient identification established in G.S. 108A-25.1 in place and
12 operating ~~before October 1, 1998~~, as soon as possible after federal approval of the phase-in
13 process. The Department shall implement the start of the phase-in process no later than
14 October 1, 1999. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, this Part is effective when it
15 becomes law."

16 Section 3. Funds appropriated by S.L. 1997-443 to the Department of Health
17 and Human Services and the Office of State Budget and Management for the Biometrics
18 Recipient Identification System for the 1997-98 fiscal year shall not revert but shall
19 remain available to the Department for this purpose.

20 Section 4. Section 3 of this act becomes effective June 30, 1998. The
21 remainder of this act is effective upon becoming law.