



# HOUSE BILL 374: IDS Efficiency Act

**This Bill Analysis  
reflects the contents  
of the bill as it was  
presented in  
committee.**

2015-2016 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary II, if favorable, Appropriations	<b>Date:</b>	April 14, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Zachary, Stam, Reives, Faircloth	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Susan Sitze Committee Counsel
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H374-CSSA-23		

**SUMMARY:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) would 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.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S685, as introduced by Sens. Lee, Newton, which is currently in Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS for House Bill 374 would appropriate \$1,600,000 for FY 2015-2016 to the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS) 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 and confidentially.

IDS would issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) and choose a vendor for an initial two-year period. The vendor would retain ownership of the kiosks and oversee access to the kiosks. There would be no direct cost to the appointed attorneys.

Savings realized through use of the system would be used at the discretion of IDS to continue funding the use of the kiosks or reduce the carry-forward debt to private assigned counsel and, if additional savings are realized, increase the rates paid to private assigned counsel.

IDS would be required to report on the establishment and use of the kiosks and any resulting cost savings to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety, and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, by February 1 of every year.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.

O. Walker Reagan  
Director



Research Division  
(919) 733-2578

\* H 3 7 4 - S M S A - 2 8 C S S A - 2 3 - V 2 \*