



HOUSE BILL 90: DPI/EC Div. Feedback/DIT Study/PED report.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 1, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Horn, Farmer-Butterfield	Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Staff

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 90 would require the Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division, to evaluate the assistance and support programs it provides to local education agencies. It would also require the Government Data Analytics Center within the Department of Information Technology to study connecting local education agencies to the North Carolina Health Information Exchange.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S64, as introduced by Sens. Foushee, Waddell, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 would require the Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division, to implement a system of evaluating the technical assistance and support programs the Division provides to the directors of exceptional children's programs for local education agencies. The system must seek customer satisfaction feedback on the following technical assistance efforts:

- The New Directors' Leadership Institute.
- Annual conferences for school personnel on exceptional children programs.
- Assistance provided by DPI's regional consultants.
- Regional meetings for exceptional children program directors hosted by regional consultants.
- Webinars provided to exceptional children program directors.

The Division must report on its efforts to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 15, 2019.

Section 2 would require the Government Data Analytics Center within the Department of Information Technology, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction, to study the feasibility of local education agencies participating in the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Network (HIE). The study must include the following:

- Identification of technology gaps preventing connection to the HIE.
- Cost estimates, including availability of federal and State funds, for connecting to the HIE.
- Whether extension of the mandatory connection deadline for local education agencies in G.S. 90-414.4 is necessary.¹

¹ H70, which passed the House on March 27, 2019, would extend the deadline for most entities, including LEAs, until June 1, 2020. H70 is currently in Senate Rules.

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The Government Data Analytics Center must report its findings to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than April 15, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of the Exceptional Children Division is to ensure that students with disabilities develop intellectually, physically, emotionally, and vocationally through the provision of an appropriate individualized education program in the least restrictive environment. The Division's strategic plan for achieving these goals can be found at: <https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/strategic-plan.pdf>.