

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023**

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**HOUSE BILL 259
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/3/23
Third Edition Engrossed 4/6/23
PROPOSED SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H259-PCS10471-NE_x-2**

Short Title: 2023 Appropriations Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 6, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO MAKE BASE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS
OF STATE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND INSTITUTIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. TITLE AND INTRODUCTION

TITLE OF ACT

SECTION 1.1. This act shall be known as the "Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2023."

INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1.2. The appropriations made in this act are for maximum amounts necessary to provide the services and accomplish the purposes described in the budget in accordance with the State Budget Act. Savings shall be effected where the total amounts appropriated are not required to perform these services and accomplish these purposes, and the savings shall revert to the appropriate fund at the end of each fiscal year, except as otherwise provided by law.

PART II. CURRENT OPERATIONS AND EXPANSION/GENERAL FUND

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

SECTION 2.1.(a) Appropriations from the General Fund for the budgets of the State departments, institutions, and agencies, and for other purposes as enumerated, are made for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, according to the following schedule:

Current Operations - General Fund	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
EDUCATION		
North Carolina Community College System		
Requirements	1,847,398,737	1,890,844,517
Less: Receipts	383,664,149	383,664,149
Net Appropriation	1,463,734,588	1,507,180,368



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1	Department of Public Instruction		
2	Requirements	13,268,962,482	13,464,948,885
3	Less: Receipts	1,819,398,621	1,749,398,621
4	Net Appropriation	11,449,563,861	11,715,550,264
5			
6	THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA		
7	East Carolina Univ. - Academic Affairs		
8	Requirements	431,788,788	431,792,843
9	Less: Receipts	167,185,795	167,185,795
10	Net Appropriation	264,602,993	264,607,048
11			
12	East Carolina Univ. - Health Affairs		
13	Requirements	110,284,626	114,284,626
14	Less: Receipts	12,894,770	12,894,770
15	Net Appropriation	97,389,856	101,389,856
16			
17	Elizabeth City State University		
18	Requirements	49,820,539	49,820,539
19	Less: Receipts	3,660,169	3,660,169
20	Net Appropriation	46,160,370	46,160,370
21			
22	Fayetteville State University		
23	Requirements	90,646,751	90,646,751
24	Less: Receipts	11,935,205	11,935,205
25	Net Appropriation	78,711,546	78,711,546
26			
27	Appalachian State University		
28	Requirements	311,794,580	312,248,983
29	Less: Receipts	122,087,419	121,862,419
30	Net Appropriation	189,707,161	190,386,564
31			
32	NC A&T University		
33	Requirements	243,898,043	238,898,043
34	Less: Receipts	87,678,145	87,678,145
35	Net Appropriation	156,219,898	151,219,898
36			
37	NC School of Science and Mathematics		
38	Requirements	45,331,072	45,331,072
39	Less: Receipts	3,291,677	3,291,677
40	Net Appropriation	42,039,395	42,039,395
41			
42	NC State University - Academic Affairs		
43	Requirements	953,304,072	953,304,072
44	Less: Receipts	438,387,357	438,387,357
45	Net Appropriation	514,916,715	514,916,715
46			
47	NC State University - Ag. Research		
48	Requirements	79,347,667	79,347,667
49	Less: Receipts	19,124,784	19,124,784
50	Net Appropriation	60,222,883	60,222,883
51			

1	NC State University - Coop. Extension		
2	Requirements	62,983,558	62,983,558
3	Less: Receipts	18,874,550	18,874,550
4	Net Appropriation	44,109,008	44,109,008
5			
6	North Carolina Central University		
7	Requirements	143,469,077	143,469,077
8	Less: Receipts	51,845,844	51,845,844
9	Net Appropriation	91,623,233	91,623,233
10			
11	UNC at Asheville		
12	Requirements	72,301,113	72,301,113
13	Less: Receipts	21,876,242	21,876,242
14	Net Appropriation	50,424,871	50,424,871
15			
16	UNC at Chapel Hill - Academic Affairs		
17	Requirements	743,025,583	708,811,584
18	Less: Receipts	375,651,994	376,437,995
19	Net Appropriation	367,373,589	332,373,589
20			
21	UNC at Chapel Hill - Area Health Ed.		
22	Requirements	55,271,874	55,271,874
23	Less: Receipts	0	0
24	Net Appropriation	55,271,874	55,271,874
25			
26	UNC at Chapel Hill - Health Affairs		
27	Requirements	369,568,724	369,568,724
28	Less: Receipts	138,758,876	138,758,876
29	Net Appropriation	230,809,848	230,809,848
30			
31	UNC at Charlotte		
32	Requirements	485,342,624	485,342,624
33	Less: Receipts	178,652,793	178,652,793
34	Net Appropriation	306,689,831	306,689,831
35			
36	UNC at Greensboro		
37	Requirements	301,275,257	301,275,257
38	Less: Receipts	105,192,973	105,192,973
39	Net Appropriation	196,082,284	196,082,284
40			
41	UNC at Pembroke		
42	Requirements	124,344,011	124,344,011
43	Less: Receipts	26,162,155	26,162,155
44	Net Appropriation	98,181,856	98,181,856
45			
46	UNC at Wilmington		
47	Requirements	313,631,547	313,631,547
48	Less: Receipts	114,684,281	114,684,281
49	Net Appropriation	198,947,266	198,947,266
50			
51	UNC BOG - Aid to Private Institutions		

1	Requirements	1,209,300	1,209,300
2	Less: Receipts	0	0
3	Net Appropriation	1,209,300	1,209,300
4			
5	UNC BOG - Institutional Programs		
6	Requirements	291,341,229	346,846,982
7	Less: Receipts	25,500,000	15,500,000
8	Net Appropriation	265,841,229	331,346,982
9			
10	UNC BOG - Related Ed. Programs		
11	Requirements	721,515,350	808,961,350
12	Less: Receipts	136,388,975	158,784,975
13	Net Appropriation	585,126,375	650,176,375
14			
15	UNC School of the Arts		
16	Requirements	56,488,236	56,488,236
17	Less: Receipts	17,148,612	17,148,612
18	Net Appropriation	39,339,624	39,339,624
19			
20	UNC System Office		
21	Requirements	47,640,384	47,640,384
22	Less: Receipts	259,217	259,217
23	Net Appropriation	47,381,167	47,381,167
24			
25	Western Carolina University		
26	Requirements	185,596,722	185,569,946
27	Less: Receipts	29,507,260	29,507,260
28	Net Appropriation	156,089,462	156,062,686
29			
30	Winston-Salem State University		
31	Requirements	91,945,473	91,945,473
32	Less: Receipts	22,435,103	22,435,103
33	Net Appropriation	69,510,370	69,510,370
34			
35	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
36	Aging and Adult Services		
37	Requirements	163,000,080	163,099,902
38	Less: Receipts	110,397,320	110,397,320
39	Net Appropriation	52,602,760	52,702,582
40			
41	Central Management and Support		
42	Requirements	462,237,603	472,466,405
43	Less: Receipts	233,940,805	240,060,329
44	Net Appropriation	228,296,798	232,406,076
45			
46	Child and Family Well-Being		
47	Requirements	595,844,916	591,561,827
48	Less: Receipts	531,727,919	531,727,919
49	Net Appropriation	64,116,997	59,833,908
50			
51	Child Development and Early Education		

1	Requirements	890,833,772	891,897,819
2	Less: Receipts	637,948,539	638,948,539
3	Net Appropriation	252,885,233	252,949,280
4			
5	Health Benefits		
6	Requirements	30,114,714,527	31,746,598,475
7	Less: Receipts	24,598,955,094	26,007,075,328
8	Net Appropriation	5,515,759,433	5,739,523,147
9			
10	Health Services Regulation		
11	Requirements	81,587,062	82,255,660
12	Less: Receipts	56,846,728	56,846,728
13	Net Appropriation	24,740,334	25,408,932
14			
15	Mental Hlth/Dev. Disabl./Subs. Abuse Serv.		
16	Requirements	1,773,379,747	1,761,144,297
17	Less: Receipts	952,550,693	927,851,315
18	Net Appropriation	820,829,054	833,292,982
19			
20	Public Health		
21	Requirements	495,800,540	488,273,759
22	Less: Receipts	377,386,877	365,711,884
23	Net Appropriation	118,413,663	122,561,875
24			
25	Services for the Blind/Deaf/Hard of Hearing		
26	Requirements	45,564,185	45,696,214
27	Less: Receipts	36,258,407	36,261,833
28	Net Appropriation	9,305,778	9,434,381
29			
30	Social Services		
31	Requirements	2,158,865,519	2,149,485,580
32	Less: Receipts	1,949,415,067	1,938,770,024
33	Net Appropriation	209,450,452	210,715,556
34			
35	Vocational Rehabilitation Services		
36	Requirements	184,563,720	183,819,222
37	Less: Receipts	141,566,889	140,253,360
38	Net Appropriation	42,996,831	43,565,862
39			
40	AGRICULTURE, NATURAL, AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES		
41	Agriculture and Consumer Services		
42	Requirements	285,103,025	277,010,553
43	Less: Receipts	86,050,056	84,989,321
44	Net Appropriation	199,052,969	192,021,232
45			
46	Commerce		
47	Requirements	289,143,419	275,466,795
48	Less: Receipts	81,893,455	67,893,455
49	Net Appropriation	207,249,964	207,573,340
50			
51	Environmental Quality		

1	Requirements	302,627,283	296,889,481
2	Less: Receipts	198,714,895	191,225,192
3	Net Appropriation	103,912,388	105,664,289
4			
5	Labor		
6	Requirements	43,488,721	43,389,023
7	Less: Receipts	18,112,941	18,112,941
8	Net Appropriation	25,375,780	25,276,082
9			
10	Natural and Cultural Resources		
11	Requirements	325,190,659	322,398,232
12	Less: Receipts	54,842,950	54,842,950
13	Net Appropriation	270,347,709	267,555,282
14			
15	Wildlife Resources Commission		
16	Requirements	97,453,845	97,057,905
17	Less: Receipts	82,816,959	81,855,762
18	Net Appropriation	14,636,886	15,202,143
19			
20	JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY		
21	Indigent Defense Services		
22	Requirements	160,963,439	174,051,212
23	Less: Receipts	13,962,679	13,962,679
24	Net Appropriation	147,000,760	160,088,533
25			
26	Department of Public Safety		
27	Requirements	913,627,974	928,383,809
28	Less: Receipts	237,764,523	237,764,523
29	Net Appropriation	675,863,451	690,619,286
30			
31	Department of Adult Correction		
32	Requirements	2,005,175,582	2,049,317,327
33	Less: Receipts	24,612,230	24,612,230
34	Net Appropriation	1,980,563,352	2,024,705,097
35			
36	Administrative Office of the Courts		
37	Requirements	748,876,324	773,047,733
38	Less: Receipts	1,210,166	1,210,166
39	Net Appropriation	747,666,158	771,837,567
40			
41	Department of Justice		
42	Requirements	110,417,049	111,440,269
43	Less: Receipts	45,147,562	45,147,562
44	Net Appropriation	65,269,487	66,292,707
45			
46	GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
47	Administration		
48	Requirements	76,394,342	77,823,544
49	Less: Receipts	11,636,055	11,636,055
50	Net Appropriation	64,758,287	66,187,489
51			

1	Administrative Hearings		
2	Requirements	9,094,746	9,287,619
3	Less: Receipts	1,216,625	1,216,625
4	Net Appropriation	7,878,121	8,070,994
5			
6	Auditor		
7	Requirements	25,268,173	25,719,316
8	Less: Receipts	6,899,163	6,899,163
9	Net Appropriation	18,369,010	18,820,153
10			
11	Budget and Management		
12	Requirements	22,217,246	12,465,060
13	Less: Receipts	11,036,517	1,036,517
14	Net Appropriation	11,180,729	11,428,543
15			
16	Budget and Management - Special Approp.		
17	Requirements	13,750,000	10,000,000
18	Less: Receipts	3,550,000	0
19	Net Appropriation	10,200,000	10,000,000
20			
21	Controller		
22	Requirements	35,680,157	36,355,687
23	Less: Receipts	875,957	875,957
24	Net Appropriation	34,804,200	35,479,730
25			
26	Elections		
27	Requirements	9,299,898	9,511,219
28	Less: Receipts	102,000	102,000
29	Net Appropriation	9,197,898	9,409,219
30			
31	General Assembly		
32	Requirements	91,141,990	93,456,430
33	Less: Receipts	561,000	561,000
34	Net Appropriation	90,580,990	92,895,430
35			
36	Governor		
37	Requirements	7,414,139	7,570,557
38	Less: Receipts	1,000,730	1,000,730
39	Net Appropriation	6,413,409	6,569,827
40			
41	Housing Finance Agency		
42	Requirements	20,660,000	20,660,000
43	Less: Receipts	0	0
44	Net Appropriation	20,660,000	20,660,000
45			
46	Human Resources		
47	Requirements	16,511,580	11,278,104
48	Less: Receipts	5,700,888	100,888
49	Net Appropriation	10,810,692	11,177,216
50			
51	Industrial Commission		

1	Requirements	26,221,065	26,431,597
2	Less: Receipts	20,443,552	20,654,084
3	Net Appropriation	5,777,513	5,777,513
4			
5	Insurance		
6	Requirements	57,054,306	58,314,229
7	Less: Receipts	5,140,347	5,140,347
8	Net Appropriation	51,913,959	53,173,882
9			
10	Lieutenant Governor		
11	Requirements	1,307,284	1,333,848
12	Less: Receipts	0	0
13	Net Appropriation	1,307,284	1,333,848
14			
15	Military and Veterans Affairs		
16	Requirements	13,228,546	13,934,980
17	Less: Receipts	0	0
18	Net Appropriation	13,228,546	13,934,980
19			
20	Revenue		
21	Requirements	186,257,835	187,179,403
22	Less: Receipts	68,443,597	66,973,597
23	Net Appropriation	117,814,238	120,205,806
24			
25	Secretary of State		
26	Requirements	18,991,121	19,345,783
27	Less: Receipts	378,161	330,036
28	Net Appropriation	18,612,960	19,015,747
29			
30	Treasurer		
31	Requirements	74,104,674	74,173,905
32	Less: Receipts	68,701,996	68,719,338
33	Net Appropriation	5,402,678	5,454,567
34			
35	Treasurer - Other Retirement Plans/Benefits		
36	Requirements	22,773,708	22,923,708
37	Less: Receipts	0	0
38	Net Appropriation	22,773,708	22,923,708
39			
40	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
41	Department of Information Technology		
42	Requirements	103,229,152	99,813,783
43	Less: Receipts	21,472,580	20,472,580
44	Net Appropriation	81,756,572	79,341,203
45			
46	RESERVES, DEBT, AND OTHER BUDGETS		
47	General Fund Reserve		
48	Requirements	160,065,540	530,298,933
49	Less: Receipts	0	0
50	Net Appropriation	160,065,540	530,298,933
51			

1	Total Requirements	64,738,651,912	67,119,758,242
2	Less: Total Receipts	35,031,528,888	36,296,444,244
3	Total Net Appropriation	29,707,123,024	30,823,313,998

4
5 **SECTION 2.1.(b)** For purposes of this act and the Committee Report described in
6 Section 43.2 of this act, the requirements set forth in this section represent the total amount of
7 funds, including agency receipts, appropriated to an agency, department, or institution.
8

9 **GENERAL FUND AVAILABILITY**

10 **SECTION 2.2.(a)** The General Fund availability derived from State tax revenue,
11 nontax revenue, and other adjustments used in developing the budget for each year of the
12 2023-2025 fiscal biennium is as follows:
13

	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025	
14			
15	Unappropriated Balance Remaining FY 2022-23	818,331,123	2,010,318,396
16	Anticipated FY 2022-23 Reversions	500,000,000	300,000,000
17	Anticipated FY 2022-23 Overcollections	3,114,500,000	-
18	S.L. 2023-11, 2022 Budget Technical Corrections	(26,207,523)	-
19	Total, Prior Year-End Fund Balance	4,406,623,600	2,310,318,396
20			
21	Revised Consensus Revenue Forecast		
22	Tax Revenue	32,115,800,000	32,395,200,000
23	Non-Tax Revenue	1,723,100,000	1,480,100,000
24	Total, Tax and Non-Tax Revenue	33,838,900,000	33,875,300,000
25			
26	Revenue Adjustments		
27	Adjustments to Tax Revenue	(41,300,000)	(878,600,000)
28	Adjustments to Non-Tax Revenue	(4,053,395)	(2,762,583)
29	Total, Revenue Adjustments	(45,353,395)	(881,362,583)
30			
31	Statutorily Required Reservations of Revenue		
32	State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF)	(1,412,592,500)	(1,461,333,238)
33	Subtotal, Statutorily Required Reservations of Revenue	(1,412,592,500)	(1,461,333,238)
34			
35	Reserves		
36	Clean Water and Drinking Water Reserve	(750,000,000)	(750,000,000)
37	Regional Economic Development Reserve	(250,000,000)	(250,000,000)
38	State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund	(250,000,000)	(250,000,000)
39	Economic Development Project Reserve	(10,000,000)	-
40	Medicaid Contingency Reserve	(500,000,000)	(500,000,000)
41	Medicaid Transformation Reserve	(5,000,000)	-
42	Information Technology Reserve	(650,000,000)	-
43	Additional Transfer to SCIF	(350,000,000)	(350,000,000)
44	Savings Reserve	(250,000,000)	-
45	NCInnovation Reserve	(1,425,000,000)	-
46	Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	(400,000,000)	(500,000,000)
47	Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	(150,000,000)	(150,000,000)
48	Subtotal, Reserves	(4,990,000,000)	(2,750,000,000)
49			
50	Revised Total General Fund Availability	31,797,577,705	31,092,922,575
51			

1	General Fund Net Appropriations		
2	S.B. 20, Care for Women, Children, and Families Act	(80,136,285)	(79,336,285)
3	H.B. 259, 2023 Appropriations Act	(29,707,123,024)	(30,823,313,998)
4	Total, General Fund Net Appropriations	(29,787,259,309)	(30,902,650,283)
5			
6	Unappropriated Balance Remaining	2,010,318,396	190,272,292

7

8 **SECTION 2.2.(b)** In addition to the amount required under G.S. 143C-4-3.1, the
 9 State Controller shall transfer to the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund established under
 10 G.S. 143C-4-3.1 the sum of three hundred fifty million dollars (\$350,000,000) in the 2023-2024
 11 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred fifty million dollars (\$350,000,000) in the 2024-2025
 12 fiscal year.

13 **SECTION 2.2.(c)** The State Controller shall reserve to the Medicaid Contingency
 14 Reserve described in G.S. 143C-4-11 from funds available in the General Fund the sum of five
 15 hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and
 16 the sum of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025
 17 fiscal year.

18 **SECTION 2.2.(d)** The State Controller shall reserve to the Information Technology
 19 Reserve established in Section 2.2(h) of S.L. 2021-180 from funds available in the General Fund
 20 the sum of six hundred fifty million dollars (\$650,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
 21 2023-2024 fiscal year. The State Controller shall transfer funds available in the Information
 22 Technology Reserve to State agencies and departments for information technology projects in
 23 accordance with the following schedule, and the funds transferred are appropriated for the fiscal
 24 year in which they are transferred:

25			
26	State Agency or Department	2023-2024	2024-2025
27			
28	(1) Department of Information Technology		
29	(Budget Code: 14660)	\$4,800,000	\$3,800,000
30	(2) Department of Health and Human Services		
31	(Budget Code: 14440)	8,179,801	680,000
32	(3) Department of Health and Human Services		
33	(Budget Code: 14410)	14,1770,000	0
34	(4) Department of Environmental Quality		
35	(Budget Code: 14300)	7,500,000	2,500,000
36	(5) Department of Environmental Quality		
37	(Budget Code: 24317)	5,510,000	5,510,000
38	(6) SEAA		
39	(Budget Code: 16012)	15,622,000	25,518,000
40	(7) NCCCS		
41	(Budget Code: 26802)	0	15,000,000
42	(8) OSHR		
43	(Budget Code: 14111)	5,600,000	0
44	(9) General Assembly		
45	(Budget Code: 21000)	15,000,000	0
46			

47 **SECTION 2.2.(e)** The State Controller shall reserve to the State Emergency
 48 Response and Disaster Relief Fund established in G.S. 166A-19.42 from funds available in the
 49 General Fund the sum of two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) in nonrecurring funds
 50 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) in
 51 nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The State Controller shall transfer funds

1 available in the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund to State agencies and
 2 departments for the purposes described in Section 5.6 of this act and in accordance with the
 3 following schedule. The funds transferred are appropriated for the five-year period ending June
 4 30, 2028.

State Agency or Department	2023-2024	2024-2025
(1) Emergency Management (Budget Code: 24552)	\$33,327,500	\$0
(2) DACS–Soil & Water Conservation (Budget Code: 23704)	20,000,000	0
(3) Department of Environmental Quality – Disaster (Budget Code: 24310)	5,493,953	987,906
(4) Wildlife Resources Commission (Budget Code: 14350)	1,000,000	0
(5) Department of Environmental Quality (Budget Code: 14300)	2,500,000	0
(6) DEQ – Special Revenue (Budget Code: 24317)	10,000,000	10,000,000
(7) UNC at Chapel Hill – Academic Affairs (Budget Code: 16020)	330,000	330,000
(8) Office of State Budget and Management – Special Appropriations (Budget Code: 13085)	2,000,000	0

25 **SECTION 2.2.(f)** The State Controller shall reserve to the Clean Water and Drinking
 26 Water Reserve established in Section 2.2(p) of S.L. 2022-74 from funds available in the General
 27 Fund the sum of seven hundred fifty million dollars (\$750,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
 28 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of seven hundred fifty million dollars (\$750,000,000) in
 29 nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

30 **SECTION 2.2.(g)** The State Controller shall reserve to the Economic Development
 31 Project Reserve established in Section 2.2 of S.L. 2021-180 from funds available in the General
 32 Fund the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal
 33 year. The State Controller shall transfer from the Economic Development Project Reserve the
 34 sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to
 35 the Department of Commerce (Budget Code: 14602) to be allocated to the North Carolina
 36 Megasite Fund.

37 **SECTION 2.2.(h)** There is established in the General Fund an NCInnovation
 38 Reserve to make funds available for NCInnovation, Inc. (NCInnovation), a North Carolina
 39 nonprofit corporation, for the purposes set out in Section 11.9 of this act. The State Controller
 40 shall reserve to the NCInnovation Reserve from funds available in the General Fund the sum of
 41 one billion four hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$1,425,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for
 42 the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Upon the Department of Commerce (Department) certifying to the
 43 State Controller that NCInnovation has met the requirements set out in Article 76B of Chapter
 44 143 of the General Statutes, as enacted by Section 11.9 of this act, the State Controller shall
 45 transfer two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) of the funds in the NCInnovation
 46 Reserve to the Department and shall prioritize funds so as to transfer the remainder of the funds
 47 in the NCInnovation Reserve as soon as practicable to the Department. Funds transferred
 48 pursuant to this subsection are hereby appropriated to the Department for allocation to
 49 NCInnovation for purposes consistent with Section 11.9 of this act. Funds allocated pursuant to
 50 this section do not revert but may be retained by NCInnovation, as provided in Section 11.9 of
 51 this act.

1 **SECTION 2.2.(i)** Section 2.2(j) of S.L. 2022-74 reads as rewritten:
 2 **"SECTION 2.2.(j)** There is established in the General Fund a World University Games
 3 Reserve to make funds available to support the State of North Carolina as a host of the ~~2027-2029~~
 4 World University Games upon an act of appropriation by the General Assembly. The State
 5 Controller shall reserve to the World University Games Reserve from funds available in the
 6 General Fund the sum of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
 7 2022-2023 fiscal year. Funds in the reserve that have not been appropriated by ~~June 30, 2026,~~
 8 June 30, 2029, shall revert to the General Fund and the World University Games Reserve shall
 9 be eliminated."

10 **SECTION 2.2.(j)** The State Controller shall transfer to the Department of Commerce
 11 the sum of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium from
 12 the World University Games Reserve, and the funds transferred are appropriated for the fiscal
 13 year in which they are transferred.

14 **SECTION 2.2.(k)** There is established in the General Fund a Regional Economic
 15 Development Reserve. The State Controller shall reserve to the Regional Economic
 16 Development Reserve from funds available in the General Fund the sum of two hundred fifty
 17 million dollars (\$250,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum
 18 of two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025
 19 fiscal year.

20 **SECTION 2.2.(l)** The State Controller shall reserve to the Stabilization and Inflation
 21 Reserve established in Section 2.2(q) of S.L. 2022-74 from funds available in the General Fund
 22 the sum of four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024
 23 fiscal year and the sum of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for
 24 the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

25 **SECTION 2.2.(m)** The State Controller shall reserve to the Federal Infrastructure
 26 Match Reserve established in Section 2.2(m) of S.L. 2022-74 from funds available in the General
 27 Fund the sum of one hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
 28 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) in
 29 nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The State Controller shall transfer funds
 30 available in the Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve to agencies and departments as needed to
 31 draw down federal funds in accordance with the following schedule, and the funds transferred
 32 are appropriated for the fiscal year in which the funds are transferred:

	State Agency or Department	2023-2024	2024-2025
34			
35			
36	(1) DEQ – (Budget Code: 64320)	\$6,605,875	\$14,417,727
37			
38	(2) DEQ – (Budget Code: 64311)	3,975,123	8,675,950
39			
40	(3) DEQ – (Budget Code: 24300)	1,388,921	1,388,921
41			
42	(4) DEQ – (Budget Code: 14300)	850,000	850,000
43			
44	(5) DEQ – (Budget Code: 64305)	500,000	500,000
45			
46	(6) Commerce – (Budget Code: 14600)	250,000	250,000
47			
48	(7) OSBM – (Budget Code: 13005)	10,000,000	0
49			

50 **SECTION 2.2.(n)** The State Controller shall reserve to the Medicaid Transformation
 51 Reserve from funds available in the General Fund the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000)

1 in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The State Controller shall transfer the sum
 2 of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of sixty
 3 million six hundred forty-two thousand one hundred seventy dollars (\$60,642,170) for the
 4 2024-2025 fiscal year from funds available in the Medicaid Transformation Reserve in the
 5 General Fund to the Medicaid Transformation Fund, established under Section 12H.29 of S.L.
 6 2015-241.

7 **SECTION 2.2.(o)** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-4-2, the State Controller shall
 8 transfer to the Savings Reserve the sum of two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) in
 9 nonrecurring funds in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This transfer is not an "appropriation made by
 10 law," as that phrase is used in Section 7(1) of Article V of the North Carolina Constitution.

11 **SECTION 2.2.(p)** G.S. 143C-9-3(a1) reads as rewritten:

12 "(a1) Each year, the sum of ~~seventeen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$17,500,000)~~
 13 twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) from the Settlement Reserve Fund is appropriated to
 14 The Golden L.E.A.F. (Long-Term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc., a nonprofit
 15 corporation, and these funds shall not be subject to G.S. 143C-6-23. The remainder of the funds
 16 credited to the Settlement Reserve Fund each fiscal year shall be transferred to the General Fund
 17 and included in General Fund availability as nontax revenue."

18 **SECTION 2.2.(q)** Subject to the specific prioritization in subsection (h) of this
 19 section, the State Controller shall ensure that the funds directed to be reserved in the 2023-2024
 20 fiscal year under this section are completed as soon as practicable but no later than the end of the
 21 2023-2024 fiscal year and the funds directed to be reserved in the 2024-2025 fiscal year under
 22 this section are completed as soon as practicable but no later than the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal
 23 year. In making the transfers required under this section, the State Controller shall prioritize
 24 transfers to Reserves that support expenditures occurring in the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

25 **SECTION 2.2.(r)** Except as otherwise specifically provided, nothing in this section
 26 shall be construed as appropriating funds reserved pursuant to this section. Funds reserved
 27 pursuant to this section do not constitute an "appropriation made by law," as that phrase is used
 28 in Section 7(1) of Article V of the North Carolina Constitution.

29
 30 **PART III. HIGHWAY FUND AND HIGHWAY TRUST FUND**

31
 32 **CURRENT OPERATIONS AND EXPANSION/HIGHWAY FUND**

33 **SECTION 3.1.** Appropriations from the State Highway Fund for the maintenance
 34 and operation of the Department of Transportation and for other purposes as enumerated are
 35 made for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2025, according to the following schedule:

Highway Fund	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Administration	\$117,778,829	\$117,854,173
Division of Highways		
Administration	54,305,975	57,986,424
Construction	79,043,078	77,543,078
Maintenance	1,856,772,344	2,153,626,208
Governor's Highway Safety Program	0	0
OSHA	358,030	358,030
Aid to Municipalities	170,375,000	170,375,000
Intermodal Divisions		
Ferry	70,429,849	61,079,849
Public Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian	72,510,286	69,510,286
Aviation	184,174,429	179,474,429
Rail	45,299,938	45,299,938
Division of Motor Vehicles	172,068,086	147,037,618

1	Other State Agencies, Reserves, Transfers	101,468,086	116,758,967
2	Capital Improvements	12,685,681	0
3	Highway Fund Total	\$2,967,270,000	\$3,196,904,000

HIGHWAY FUND AVAILABILITY

6 **SECTION 3.2.** The Highway Fund availability used in developing the 2023-2025
7 fiscal biennial budget is shown below:

8	Highway Fund Availability	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
9	Beginning Balance	\$0	\$0
10	Motor Fuels Tax	1,805,200,000	1,827,700,000
11	Licenses and Fees	895,100,000	1,053,300,000
12	Short-Term Lease	116,700,000	121,500,000
13	Investment Income	40,700,000	35,700,000
14	Sales Tax Transfer	106,300,000	163,000,000
15	Adjustments to Availability		
16	Short Term Rental Changes	600,000	1,000,000
17	Aviation Fuels Tax Changes	0	(11,000,000)
18	Sales Tax Changes	(30,000)	(50,000)
19	Title Fees – Transfer from Highway		
20	Trust Fund	1,500,000	1,954,000
21	Electric Vehicle Registration Fee Increase	500,000	2,000,000
22	Plug-in Hybrid Registration Fee	700,000	1,800,000
23	Total Highway Fund Availability	\$2,967,270,000	\$3,196,904,000

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND APPROPRIATIONS

26 **SECTION 3.3.** Appropriations from the State Highway Trust Fund for construction,
27 for operations of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes as enumerated are
28 made for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2025, according to the following schedule:

30	Highway Trust Fund	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
31	Program Administration	42,017,311	42,017,311
32	Bond	121,439,825	121,436,775
33	Turnpike Authority	49,000,000	49,000,000
34	State Ports Authority	45,000,000	45,000,000
35	FHWA State Match	6,070,440	6,176,440
36	Strategic Prioritization Funding		
37	Plan for Transportation Investments	2,045,187,396	2,182,325,474
38	Transfer to Visitor Center	640,000	640,000
39	Highway Trust Fund Total	\$2,309,354,972	\$2,446,596,000

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND AVAILABILITY

42 **SECTION 3.4.** The Highway Trust Fund availability used in developing the
43 2023-2025 fiscal biennial budget is shown below:

44	Highway Trust Fund Availability	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
45	Beginning Balance (Unspent Advance		
46	Acquisition Hardship Funds)	\$109,834,972	\$0
47	Highway Use Tax	1,112,400,000	1,160,800,000
48	Motor Fuels Tax	598,900,000	602,500,000
49	Fees	142,100,000	170,900,000
50	Investment Income	28,900,000	25,300,000
51	Sales Tax Transfer	318,800,000	489,600,000

1			
2	Adjustments to Availability		
3	Sales Tax Changes	(80,000)	(150,000)
4	Title Fees – Transfer to Highway Fund	(1,500,000)	(1,954,000)
5	Total Highway Trust Fund Availability	\$2,309,354,972	\$2,446,596,000
6			

PART IV. OTHER AVAILABILITY AND APPROPRIATIONS

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS

SECTION 4.1.(a) State funds, as defined in G.S. 143C-1-1(d)(25), are appropriated for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, as follows:

- (1) All budget codes listed in the Governor's Recommended Base Budget for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, submitted pursuant to G.S. 143C-3-5, are appropriated up to the amounts specified, as adjusted by the General Assembly in this act and as delineated in the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of this act, or in another act of the General Assembly.
- (2) Agency receipts up to the amounts needed to implement the legislatively mandated salary increases and employee benefit increases provided in this act for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

SECTION 4.1.(b) Receipts collected in a fiscal year in excess of the amounts appropriated by this section shall remain unexpended and unencumbered until appropriated by the General Assembly, unless the expenditure of overrealized receipts in the fiscal year in which the receipts were collected is authorized by G.S. 143C-6-4. Overrealized receipts are appropriated in the amounts necessary to implement this subsection.

SECTION 4.1.(c) Funds may be expended only for the specified programs, purposes, objects, and line items or as otherwise authorized by the General Assembly.

OTHER RECEIPTS FROM PENDING AWARD GRANTS

SECTION 4.2.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-6-4, State agencies may, with approval of the Director of the Budget, spend funds received from grants awarded after the enactment of this act for grant awards that are for less than two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000). State agencies shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the chairs of the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget, the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division within 30 days of receipt of such funds.

State agencies may spend up to the greater of one percent (1%) or ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) of the total amount of grants awarded after the enactment of this act to respond to an emergency, as defined in G.S. 166A-19.3, with the approval of the Director of the Budget. State agencies shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the chairs of the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget, the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division within 30 days of receipt of such funds, including specifying the total amount of grants awarded to respond to the emergency.

State agencies may spend all other funds from grants awarded after the enactment of this act only with approval of the Director of the Budget and after consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

SECTION 4.2.(b) The Office of State Budget and Management shall work with the recipient State agencies to budget grant awards according to the annual program needs and within the parameters of the respective granting entities. Depending on the nature of the award, additional State personnel may be employed on a time-limited basis. Funds received from such grants are hereby appropriated up to the applicable amount set forth in subsection (a) of this section and shall be incorporated into the authorized budget of the recipient State agency.

1 application period. The local match requirement applied to the project shall be based on the match
 2 requirement effective at the time of the grant award. The local match requirement is calculated
 3 as follows:

4 **Adjusted Market Value of Taxable Real Property**

5	6 Over	7 Up to	8 Percentage Match
7	\$0	\$2 billion	0%
8	\$2 billion	\$10 billion	5%
9	\$10 billion	\$20 billion	15%
10	\$20 billion	\$30 billion	25%
11	\$30 billion	\$40 billion	35%

12 (b) Grant funds shall be used only for the construction of new school buildings and
 13 additions, repairs, and renovations. Grant funds shall not be used for real property acquisition or
 14 for capital improvements to administrative buildings. Grant funds shall be disbursed in a series
 15 of payments based on the progress of the project. To obtain a payment, the grantee shall submit
 16 a request for payment along with documentation of the expenditures for which the payment is
 17 requested and evidence that the matching requirement contained in subsection (a) of this section
 18 has been met. No portion of grant funds may be used to acquire a Leadership in Energy and
 19 Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

20 (c) Maximum grant award amounts shall be determined as follows:

- 21 (1) Up to ~~thirty~~ forty million dollars ~~(\$30,000,000)~~ (\$40,000,000) for an
 22 elementary school.
- 23 (2) Up to ~~forty~~ fifty million dollars ~~(\$40,000,000)~~ (\$50,000,000) for a middle
 24 school or a combination of an elementary and middle school.
- 25 (3) Up to ~~fifty~~ sixty million dollars ~~(\$50,000,000)~~ (\$60,000,000) for a high
 26 school.

27 (d) The Department of Public Instruction shall review projected enrollment to evaluate
 28 the reasonableness of a project's size and scope. A county may include in a grant application a
 29 minimum grant amount that would enable the project to proceed. A grant application that
 30 proposes to consolidate two or more schools by (i) making additions or renovations at one or
 31 more school facilities and (ii) closing one or more existing school facilities may be submitted
 32 and considered by the Department of Public Instruction as a single project. Each application for
 33 a grant under this Article shall be evaluated independent of other grant applications submitted. A
 34 county may not apply for projects that exceed an aggregate amount greater than the maximum
 35 grant award amounts listed in subsection (c) of this section in any single year. The Department
 36 of Public Instruction shall not award a grant to an applicant at less than the requested amount or
 37 less than the maximum grant amounts listed in subsection (c) of this section for the purpose of
 38 reserving the amount of grant funds available for other grant applications. If a county declines or
 39 otherwise forfeits a grant awarded under this section, the Department shall not award additional
 40 grants to that county for 24 months from the date the grant award was declined or forfeited.

41 **"§ 115C-546.12. Grant agreement; requirements.**

42 (a) A county receiving grant funds pursuant to this Article shall enter into an agreement
 43 with the Department of Public Instruction detailing the use of grant funds. The agreement shall
 44 contain at least all of the following:

- 45 (1) A requirement that the grantee seek planning assistance and plan review from
 46 the School Planning Section of the Department of Public Instruction.
- 47 (2) A progress payment provision governing disbursements to the county for the
 48 duration of the school construction project based upon the construction
 49 progress and documentation satisfactory to the Department that the matching
 50 requirement in G.S. 115C-546.11 has been met.

- 1 (3) A provision requiring periodic reports to the Department of Public Instruction
2 on the use of disbursed grant funds and the progress of the school construction
3 project.
- 4 (4) A requirement that matching funds paid by the county pursuant to
5 G.S. 115C-546.11 must be derived from non-State and nonfederal funds.
- 6 (b) Project construction must be initiated within 24 months of the award of grant funds.
7 The Superintendent of Public Instruction may grant a 12-month extension under extraordinary
8 circumstances.

9 **"§ 115C-546.13. Lease exception; requirements.**

10 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this Article to the contrary, a county may utilize
11 grant funds for a lease agreement if all of the following criteria are met:

- 12 (1) Ownership of the subject property on which the leased school is constructed
13 shall be retained by the county.
- 14 (2) The lease agreement shall include a repairs and maintenance provision that
15 requires the landlord to bear the entire expense of all repairs, maintenance,
16 alterations, or improvements to the basic structure, fixtures, appurtenances,
17 and grounds of the subject property for the term of the lease.
- 18 (3) The lease agreement shall be for a term of at least 15 years and no more than
19 25 years.
- 20 (4) In lieu of the progress payment requirement provided in G.S. 115C-546.11(b),
21 a county that has entered into a lease agreement shall provide a copy of the
22 lease agreement to the Department of Public Instruction and shall be
23 periodically reimbursed upon submission of documentation satisfactory to the
24 Department that the matching requirement of this section has been met.

25 (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "lease agreement" shall include any ancillary
26 agreements or predevelopment agreements entered into in anticipation of or in accordance with
27 a lease. A lease agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the
28 requirements of Article 8 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes. In determining whether the
29 lease agreement is necessary or expedient pursuant to G.S. 159-151(a)(1) and
30 G.S. 159-151(b)(1), the Local Government Commission may consider any other relevant
31 construction and financing methods available to the county.

32 **"§ 115C-546.14. Reporting.**

33 (a) On or before April 1 of each year, a grant recipient shall submit to the Department of
34 Public Instruction an annual report for the preceding year that describes the progress of the
35 project for which the grant was received. The grant recipient shall submit a final report to the
36 Department of Public Instruction within three months of the completion of the project.

37 (b) On or before May 1 of each year, the Department of Public Instruction shall submit a
38 report to the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the
39 chairs of the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division.
40 The report shall contain at least all of the following information for the fiscal year:

- 41 (1) Number, description, and geographic distribution of projects awarded.
- 42 (2) Total cost of each project and amount supported by the Needs-Based Public
43 School Capital Fund.
- 44 (3) Projections for local school administrative unit capital needs for the next 30
45 years based upon present conditions and estimated demographic changes.
- 46 (4) Any legislative recommendations for improving the Needs-Based Public
47 School Capital Fund program."

48 **SECTION 4.3.(c)** The Department of Public Instruction may award additional grant
49 funds for new construction, up to the maximum amounts provided in subsection (b) of this
50 section, to a county that received an award for new construction under G.S. 115C-546.11(c)
51 during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, provided that the county has not yet begun construction on the

1 project. A county seeking additional funding pursuant to this subsection shall request additional
 2 funds from the Department in an amount not exceeding ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) by June
 3 30, 2024, and shall provide actual bids or other documentation of cost increases satisfactory to
 4 the Department based upon the original project scope outlined in the grant agreement to support
 5 the requested additional funding. The additional grant awards provided pursuant to this
 6 subsection shall be subject to the same local matching requirement applicable when the previous
 7 grant was awarded. The Department may amend any existing agreements entered into with grant
 8 recipients from the initial grant award to accommodate the increased grant funding provided in
 9 this subsection. The Department may award additional grant funds under this subsection outside
 10 of the regular application process and time line; provided, however, all additional grants funds
 11 shall be awarded no later than June 30, 2025.

12 **SECTION 4.3.(e)** G.S. 115C-546.11(c), as amended by subsection (b) of this
 13 section, reads as rewritten:

14 "(c) Maximum grant award amounts shall be ~~determined as follows:~~reviewed and updated
 15 annually by the Department

- 16 (1) ~~Up to forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) for the cost of construction of an~~
 17 elementary ~~school.~~school.
- 18 (2) ~~Up to fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) for a middle school or a combination~~
 19 of an elementary and middle ~~school.~~school, and
- 20 (3) ~~Up to sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) for a high school.~~school based upon
 21 the most recent Producer Price Index for New School Building Construction,
 22 as published by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics under NAICS code
 23 236222."

24 **SECTION 4.3.(f)** Subsection (e) of this section becomes effective July 1, 2024, and
 25 applies to applications submitted on or after that date. The remainder of this section becomes
 26 effective July 1, 2023.

27
 28 **INDIAN GAMING EDUCATION REVENUE FUND APPROPRIATIONS**

29 **SECTION 4.4.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-9-7, allocations are made from the
 30 Indian Gaming Education Revenue Fund for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2025, as
 31 follows:

	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
32 Textbook and Digital Resources Allotment	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
33 Classroom Materials	11,000,000	1,000,000
34 Total Appropriation	\$21,000,000	\$11,000,000

35
 36
 37 **CIVIL PENALTY AND FORFEITURE FUND**

38 **SECTION 4.5.(a)** Allocations are made from the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund
 39 for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
40 School Technology Fund	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000
41 Drivers Education	30,193,768	30,193,768
42 State Public School Fund	226,041,640	166,041,640
43 Total Appropriation	\$274,235,408	\$214,235,408

44 **SECTION 4.5.(b)** The Department of Public Instruction shall fund drivers education
 45 using the clear proceeds of the late fee for motor vehicle registration, as outlined in
 46 G.S. 20-88.03. The Department shall not spend more than the lesser of (i) thirty million one
 47 hundred ninety-three thousand seven hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$30,193,768) or (ii) the
 48 proceeds of the late fee for motor vehicle registration in each year of the biennium. The
 49 Department may use up to two percent (2%) of the funds allocated pursuant to this section for
 50 statewide administration of the drivers education program.
 51

CORONAVIRUS CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND RESERVE TRANSFER ADJUSTMENT

SECTION 4.6. Section 4.12 of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

"**SECTION 4.12.** The State Controller shall transfer the sum of ~~two hundred seventy seven million sixty thousand eight hundred fifty five dollars (\$277,060,855)~~ two hundred seventy-three million five hundred eighty-three thousand one hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$273,583,179) to align with the federal award letter received for the 2021-2022 fiscal year from the Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve, established in Section 2.3 of S.L. 2021-25, to the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, established in Section 2.4 of S.L. 2021-25."

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 FUNDING

SECTION 4.7.(a) Definitions. – The definitions in S.L. 2021-25 and the following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA. – The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, as defined in S.L. 2021-25.
- (2) ARPA Temporary Savings Fund. – As established in Section 1.3 of S.L. 2023-7.
- (3) State Fiscal Recovery Fund. – As established in Section 2.2 of S.L. 2021-25.
- (4) State Fiscal Recovery Reserve. – As established in Section 2.1 of S.L. 2021-25.

SECTION 4.7.(b) Guidance. – OSBM shall work with the recipient State agencies to budget receipts awarded pursuant to ARPA to allow for the tracking of such funds through either separate accounts or fund codes according to the program needs and within the parameters of the respective granting entities and applicable federal laws and regulations. State agencies shall not use funds received pursuant to ARPA for recurring purposes. Depending on the nature of the award, additional State personnel may be employed on a temporary or time-limited basis.

SECTION 4.7.(c) Disbursement. – OSBM shall allocate State Fiscal Recovery Fund funds to State agencies and departments upon justification from the agency or department and only as needed to implement the provisions of this act. State Fiscal Recovery Fund funds shall be allocated to nonprofit organizations on a quarterly basis unless OSBM determines that cash flow or the nature of the program being funded requires otherwise.

SECTION 4.7.(d) Interest. – All interest earned on funds held in the State Fiscal Recovery Fund through June 30, 2023, shall be transferred to the State Fiscal Recovery Reserve. Effective July 1, 2023, all interest earned on funds held in the State Fiscal Recovery Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

SECTION 4.7.(e) Administration. – For administrative expenses related to administration of a provision allocating ARPA funds in this act, a State agency may, of ARPA funds allocated to it under this act, use up to the lesser of (i) the amount allowed by federal law or guidance or (ii) ten percent (10%) of ARPA funds allocated to it under this act. When utilizing the authority set forth in this subsection, a State agency shall not reduce funds earmarked in this act, or the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of this act, for a particular local government project or non-State entity project.

SECTION 4.7.(f) Accounting. – A State agency receiving State Fiscal Recovery Fund funds shall track such funds separately from other funds by use of either separate accounts or fund codes.

SECTION 4.7.(g) Reports. – In addition to any report required under this section or any other law, OSBM shall provide a quarterly report to the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division, beginning October 15, 2023, detailing the use of State Fiscal Recovery Fund funds allocated under this act. The report required from OSBM under this section shall include, for the preceding quarter, the amount of funds disbursed to each State agency, State department, and

1 nonprofit organization; the amount of funds remaining to be disbursed to each State agency, State
 2 Department, and nonprofit organization; and how the funds were used by each State agency,
 3 State department, and nonprofit organization.

4 **SECTION 4.7.(h)** Audit. – The State Auditor shall conduct biennial preliminary
 5 financial audits and a final performance audit of the State Fiscal Recovery Fund no later than 90
 6 days following the latest date on which expenditures may be made under applicable federal law
 7 or guidance.

8 **SECTION 4.7.(i)** Reversion. – The funds appropriated from the State Fiscal
 9 Recovery Fund in this act and in prior enactments of the General Assembly shall not revert at the
 10 end of each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium but shall remain available to expend and
 11 appropriate until the date set by applicable federal law or guidance.

12 **SECTION 4.7.(j)** Exclusion. – This section does not apply to funds allocated in this
 13 act from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund or to the Department of Health and Human Services
 14 with regards to any federal receipts arising from the enhanced federal medical assistance
 15 percentage (FMAP) available to the State under section 9814 of ARPA or any savings realized
 16 as a result of those receipts.

17
 18 **TRANSFER OF STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS FROM STATE FISCAL**
 19 **RECOVERY RESERVE**

20 **SECTION 4.8.** The State Controller shall transfer the sum of nineteen million
 21 forty-seven thousand seven hundred ninety-four dollars (\$19,047,794) for the 2023-2024 fiscal
 22 year and eleven million four hundred fifty-two thousand two hundred six dollars (\$11,452,206)
 23 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year from the State Fiscal Recovery Reserve to the State Fiscal Recovery
 24 Fund.

25
 26 **TRANSFER OF INTEREST EARNED FROM STATE FISCAL RECOVERY RESERVE**

27 **SECTION 4.8A.(a)** The State Controller shall transfer interest earned from State
 28 Fiscal Recovery Funds in the State Fiscal Recovery Reserve to State agencies and departments
 29 in accordance with the following schedule:

30	State Agency or Department	2023-2024	2024-2025
31			
32	(1) Department of Information Technology	0	4,797,794
33	(Budget Code: 14660)		
34	(2) Department of Commerce	4,000,000	0
35	(Budget Code: 14602)		
36	(3) Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	3,000,000	0
37	(Budget Code: 23704)		
38	(4) Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	10,000,000	10,000,000
39	(Budget Code: 63701)		
40	(5) Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	10,000,000	8,939,265
41	(Budget Code: 13700)		
42	(6) Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	10,000,000	0
43	(Budget Code: 24820)		
44	(7) Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	5,000,000	0
45	(Budget Code: 24817)		
46	(8) Department of Public Instruction	7,800,000	0
47	(Budget Code: 13510)		

48 **SECTION 4.8A.(b)** Reversion. – The interest funds allocated pursuant to this section
 49 and in prior enactments of the General Assembly shall not revert at the end of each fiscal year of
 50 the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium but shall remain available and appropriated until expended.

STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS FOR BONUSES ADJUSTMENT

SECTION 4.8B. Allocation of Funds. – Section 39.2(f) of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 39.2.(f) Of the funds appropriated in this act from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, the sum of five hundred ~~forty five twenty-two million seven hundred forty-seven thousand seven hundred ninety-four~~ dollars ~~(\$545,000,000) (\$522,747,794)~~ for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is allocated to provide the one-time, lump sum bonuses authorized in this section to State employees and local education employees for work performed during the COVID-19 pandemic."

ARPA TEMPORARY SAVINGS FUND

SECTION 4.9.(a) Funds allocated in this act from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund, established in Section 1.3(a) of S.L. 2023-7, to State agencies and departments are appropriated for the purposes described in those allocations for the fiscal year in which they are allocated. Funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund shall not revert.

SECTION 4.9.(b) The funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund shall become available during the course of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium as the funds are deposited into that Fund. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall not provide allocations of the funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund until the funds are available within that Fund. After funds begin to be deposited to the Fund, DHHS shall allocate funds on at least a quarterly basis, or more frequently, provided funds are available with the Fund. Funds allocated as detailed in the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of this act shall be disbursed based upon the amount of funds being allocated, least to most. If there are two or more allocation amounts that are equal, then the funds for those allocations shall be disbursed in the order determined by the Secretary of DHHS, taking into account any time lines for the use of the funds, the best interest of the citizens of the State, and the avoidance of any disruption in services to those citizens.

SECTION 4.9.(c) Beginning October 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, in addition to any report required under this act or any other law, State agencies and departments and any non-State entities receiving funds from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund shall submit a report to the Fiscal Research Division detailing the use of funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund for the previous fiscal year until the funds received are fully expended. The report required under this section shall include the amount of funds received to date, how the funds were used during the previous fiscal year, and the amount of funds that remained unspent at the end of the previous fiscal year. This subsection shall not apply to any funds appropriated to the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund.

SECTION 4.9.(d) State agencies and departments and any non-State entities receiving funds from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund may use up to five percent (5%) of those funds for administrative costs, including for time-limited positions. This subsection shall not apply to any funds appropriated to the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund.

TRANSFORMATIONAL INVESTMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH**CLARIFICATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WITH RESPECT TO OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL FLEXIBILITIES**

SECTION 4.10.(a) G.S. 116-37, 116-37.2, 116-36.6, 116-40.4, and 116-40.6 are repealed.

SECTION 4.10.(b) Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new Articles to read:

"Article 38.

"University of North Carolina Health Care System.

"Part 1. Health Care System.

"§ 116-350. Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply in this Article:

- (1) Board or Board of Directors. – The Board of Directors of the University of North Carolina Health Care System.
- (2) Chief Executive Officer. – The executive and administrative head of the University of North Carolina Health Care System.
- (3) Component unit. – Any of the following:
 - a. The University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill.
 - b. A clinical patient care program established or maintained by the School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- (4) System affiliate. – Any corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, association business trust, or similar entity organized under the laws of the United States of America or any state thereof, whether for profit or nonprofit, if a majority of the members of the governing body or of its partnership or membership interests are one of the following:
 - a. The same as the members of the Board of the System.
 - b. Subject, directly or indirectly, to election or appointment by the Board of the System.
- (5) The University of North Carolina Health Care System or System. – The entity created pursuant to G.S. 116-350.5, the component units of which include the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill and the clinical patient care programs established or maintained by the School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"§ 116-350.5. University of North Carolina Health Care System.

(a) Establishment of System. – Effective November 1, 1998, the University of North Carolina Health Care System is established. The System is a State agency and political subdivision governed and administered as an affiliated enterprise of The University of North Carolina in accordance with the provisions of this Article. The System shall provide patient care; facilitate the education of physicians and other health care providers in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and other health sciences schools affiliated with the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina System; conduct research collaboratively with the health sciences schools of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and other institutions; facilitate clinical collaboration with and financial sustainability of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine; render other services designed to promote the health and well-being of the citizens of North Carolina; and drive innovation and transformation in health care services delivery.

(b) Transfer of Rights. – As of November 1, 1998, all of the rights, privileges, liabilities, and obligations of the Board of the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article, shall be transferred to and assumed by the Board of the System.

(c) Governance. – The Board of the System shall govern and administer The University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill, the clinical patient care programs established or maintained by the School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and such other entities and functions as (i) the General Assembly may assign to the System or (ii) the Board may decide, within the limitations of its statutory powers and duties, to establish, administer, or acquire for the purpose of rendering services designed to promote the health and well-being of the citizens of North Carolina.

1 (d) With respect to G.S. 116-350.30, 116-350.35, 116-350.40, 116-350.45, and
2 116-350-65, the Board may adopt policies that make the authorities and responsibilities
3 established by one or more of said sections applicable to the University of North Carolina
4 Hospitals at Chapel Hill, to the clinical patient care programs of the School of Medicine of the
5 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to both, or to other persons or entities affiliated with
6 or under the control of the University of North Carolina Health Care System.

7 **"§ 116-350.10. Board of Directors.**

8 (a) The Board shall be composed of 24 members as follows:

9 (1) Four ex officio members as follows:

10 a. The President of The University of North Carolina or the President's
11 designee.

12 b. The Chief Executive Officer of the University of North Carolina
13 Health Care System.

14 c. The Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

15 d. The President of the University of North Carolina Hospitals.

16 (2) Eight members at large shall be appointed by the General Assembly as
17 follows:

18 a. One member shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon
19 recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
20 annually.

21 b. One member shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon
22 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate annually.

23 (3) Twelve members at large shall be appointed by the Board of Governors after
24 consultation with the President of The University of North Carolina. The
25 Board of Governors shall appoint three members annually.

26 (4) All at-large positions shall serve four-year terms beginning November 1 of the
27 year of appointment. At-large positions shall be filled by the appointment of
28 persons from the business and professional public at large who have special
29 competence in business management, hospital administration, health care
30 delivery, or medical practice or who otherwise have demonstrated dedication
31 to the improvement of health care in North Carolina, and who are neither
32 members of the Board of Governors, members of the board of trustees of a
33 constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, nor officers or
34 employees of the State. No member may be appointed to more than two full
35 four-year terms in succession. Any vacancy in an unexpired term shall be
36 filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term.
37 Vacancies for members appointed by the General Assembly shall be filled as
38 provided in G.S. 120-122.

39 (b) The Board, with each ex officio and at-large member having a vote, shall elect a chair
40 only from among the at-large members for a term of two years. Notwithstanding the foregoing
41 limitation, the Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill may serve as chair.
42 No person shall be eligible to serve as chair for more than three terms in succession.

43 (c) The Board shall meet at least every 60 days and may hold special meetings at any
44 time and place within the State at the call of the chair. Board members, other than ex officio
45 members, shall receive the same per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses as members of
46 the State boards and commissions generally.

47 (d) The Board's action on matters within its jurisdiction is final, except that appeals may
48 be made, in writing, to the Board of Governors with a copy of the appeal to the Chancellor of the
49 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Board shall keep the Board of Governors and
50 the board of trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill fully informed about

1 health care policy and recommend changes necessary to maintain adequate health care delivery,
2 education, and research for improvement of the health of the citizens of North Carolina.

3 **"§ 116-350.15. Powers and duties of the Board of Directors.**

4 (a) Contracting Authority. – The Board may authorize the System or any component unit
5 of the System to contract in its individual capacity, subject to such policies and procedures as the
6 Board may direct.

7 (b) Agreements with Constituent Institutions. – The Board may enter into formal
8 agreements with constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina with respect to the
9 provision of clinical experience for students and for the provision of maintenance and supporting
10 services.

11 (c) General Powers and Duties. – The Board is authorized to exercise such authority and
12 responsibility and adopt such policies, rules, and regulations as it deems necessary or convenient,
13 not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article, to carry out the patient care, education,
14 research, and public service mission of the System, including, but not limited to, authority to do
15 the following:

16 (1) Construct, plan, create, equip, operate, and maintain health care facilities and
17 ancillary enterprises.

18 (2) Collect, manage, and control all receipts generated through its clinical
19 operations and other activities.

20 (3) Issue bonds and notes as provided in G.S. 116-350.55.

21 (4) Acquire and dispose of real or personal property, including existing public or
22 private hospital and health care facilities, by purchase, grant, gift, devise,
23 lease, or otherwise.

24 (5) Enter into partnerships, affiliations, and other combinations or arrangements
25 with other hospitals or health care entities, as it deems appropriate, including
26 arrangements for management services, to achieve its missions of patient care,
27 education, research, and public service.

28 (6) Contract with or enter into any arrangement, including through interlocal
29 cooperation agreements under Part 1 of Article 20 of Chapter 160A of the
30 General Statutes, with other public hospitals of this or other states, federal or
31 public agencies, or with any person, private organization, or nonprofit
32 corporation for the provision of health care.

33 (7) Insure property or operations of the System against risks as the Board may
34 deem advisable.

35 (8) Except as provided in G.S. 116-350.40, to invest any funds held in reserves or
36 sinking funds, or any funds generated from operations, in property or
37 securities in which trustees, executors, or others acting in a fiduciary capacity
38 may legally invest funds under their control.

39 (9) Exercise the following powers conferred upon municipal hospitals and
40 hospital authorities under Article 2 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes:

41 a. The power to enter into agreements with other hospital entities subject
42 to Article 2 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes to jointly exercise
43 the powers, privileges, and authorities granted by Article 2 of Chapter
44 131E of the General Statutes.

45 b. The power to lease any hospital facility, or any part of a hospital
46 facility, to a nonprofit corporation, provided that the terms and
47 conditions of such lease are consistent with the public purposes
48 described in G.S. 131E-12.

49 c. The power to acquire an ownership interest, in whole or in part, in a
50 nonprofit or for-profit managed care company, as provided in
51 G.S. 131E-7.1.

1 d. All powers set forth in G.S. 131E-23 that are not otherwise addressed
2 by this Part.

3 (10) Exercise any or all powers conferred upon the Board, either generally or with
4 respect to any specific health care facility or other operations, through or by
5 designated agents, including private corporations, nonprofit corporations, or
6 limited liability companies formed under the laws of the State.

7 (11) Have the powers of a body corporate and politic, including the power to sue
8 and be sued, to make contracts, and to adopt and use a common seal and to
9 alter the same as may be deemed expedient.

10 (d) Limitations. – Notwithstanding the powers and duties provided in this section, the
11 Board shall not relinquish to another entity more than fifty percent (50%) of control of either the
12 UNC Hospitals or the System.

13 **"§ 116-350.20. Reports due from the Board of Directors.**

14 The Chief Executive Officer and the President of The University of North Carolina jointly
15 shall report by December 31 of each year on the operations and financial affairs of the System to
16 the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Board of Governors of
17 The University of North Carolina. The report shall include actions taken by the Board under the
18 authority granted by G.S. 116-350.35.

19 **"§ 116-350.25. System Officers and their staff.**

20 (a) Chief Executive Officer. – The executive and administrative head of the University
21 of North Carolina Health Care System shall have the title of "Chief Executive Officer." The
22 Board of Directors, the board of trustees, and the Chancellor of the University of North Carolina
23 at Chapel Hill, following such search process as the boards and the Chancellor deem appropriate,
24 shall identify two or more persons as candidates for the office, who, pursuant to criteria agreed
25 upon by the boards and the Chancellor, have the qualifications for both the positions of Chief
26 Executive Officer of the University of North Carolina Health Care System and Vice-Chancellor
27 for Medical Affairs of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The names of the
28 candidates so identified, once approved by the Board of Directors and the board of trustees, shall
29 be forwarded by the Chancellor to the President of The University of North Carolina, who if
30 satisfied with the quality of one or more of the candidates, will nominate one as Chief Executive
31 Officer, subject to selection by the Board of Governors. The individual serving as Chief
32 Executive Officer shall have complete executive and administrative authority to formulate
33 proposals for, recommend the adoption of, and implement policies governing the programs and
34 activities of the University of North Carolina Health Care System, subject to all requirements of
35 the Board of Directors. That same individual, when serving as Vice-Chancellor for Medical
36 Affairs, shall have all authorities, rights, and responsibilities of a vice-chancellor of the
37 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

38 (b) President of UNC Hospitals. – The executive and administrative head of the
39 University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill shall have the title of "President of the
40 University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill." The Board of Directors shall elect, on
41 nomination of the Chief Executive Officer, the President of the University of North Carolina
42 Hospitals at Chapel Hill.

43 (c) Administrative and Professional Staff. – The Board of Directors shall elect, on
44 nomination of the Chief Executive Officer, such additional administrative and professional staff
45 employees of the University of North Carolina Health Care System as may be deemed necessary
46 to assist in fulfilling the duties of the office of the Chief Executive Officer, all of whom shall
47 serve at the pleasure of the Chief Executive Officer.

48 **"§ 116-350.30. Personnel.**

49 (a) Employment Authority. – The System may employ a workforce to conduct its
50 operations. Employees who are employed directly by the System, and not by a System affiliate,
51 are State employees whose terms and conditions of employment, including benefit plans and

1 programs, are determined by the Board. Only Articles 5, 6, 7, and 14 of Chapter 126 of the
2 General Statutes, the State Human Resources Act, apply to these State employees. The Board of
3 the System may authorize the System to employ the faculty and staff of the University of North
4 Carolina School of Medicine as well as other health affairs schools and components of the
5 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill subject to the provisions of this subsection, provided
6 that any employees who are faculty members shall remain subject to the faculty policies of the
7 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as established or adopted pursuant to delegation
8 from the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina. A State employee employed
9 by the System immediately prior to November 1, 2023, has the right to (i) continued State
10 employment if the employee remains in the employee's current role or position, unless terminated
11 in accordance with the terms of employment that existed immediately prior to November 1, 2023,
12 subject to all relevant provisions of State and federal law and (ii) continued participation in the
13 State Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System if the employee was enrolled in the
14 Retirement System immediately prior to November 1, 2023, and maintains State employee status.

15 (b) Certain Career State Employees. – Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a
16 State employee who achieved career State employee status by October 31, 1998, shall remain
17 subject to the rules regarding discipline or discharge that were effective on October 31, 1998,
18 and shall not be subject to the rules regarding discipline or discharge adopted after that date.

19 **"§ 116-350.35. Finances.**

20 (a) System Budgeting. – The System, the UNC Hospitals, and designated component
21 parts of The University of North Carolina shall not be subject to the provisions of the State
22 Budget Act, except for General Fund appropriations, or otherwise subject to the authority,
23 oversight, or control of the Office of the State Controller. The System, the UNC Hospitals, and
24 designated component parts of The University of North Carolina shall be subject to the authority
25 and oversight of the Office of the State Auditor. The Chief Executive Officer, subject to the
26 Board, shall be responsible for all aspects of budget preparation, budget execution, and
27 expenditure reporting for the System. Separate auditable accounts under the control of the Board
28 shall be maintained for the UNC Hospitals and the clinical patient care programs of the School
29 of Medicine of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Except for General Fund
30 appropriations, all receipts of the UNC Hospitals may be invested pursuant to G.S. 116-265.40.
31 General Fund appropriations for support of the UNC Hospitals shall be budgeted in a General
32 Fund code under a single purpose, "Contribution to University of North Carolina Hospitals at
33 Chapel Hill Operations" and be transferable to a special fund operating code as receipts. All
34 revenues generated from operations, appropriations, or funds otherwise under the control of the
35 Board shall exclusively be used in furtherance of the missions and goals of the System as
36 determined or approved by the Board.

37 (b) Patient/Health Care System Benefit. – The Chief Executive Officer, or the Chief
38 Executive Officer's designee, may expend operating budget funds, including State funds, of the
39 System for the direct benefit of a patient, when, in the judgment of the Chief Executive Officer
40 or the Chief Executive Officer's designee, the expenditure of these funds would result in a
41 financial benefit to the System. Any such expenditures are declared to result in the provision of
42 medical services and create charges of the University of North Carolina Health Care System for
43 which the health care system may bill and pursue recovery in the same way as allowed by law
44 for recovery of other health care systems' charges for services that are unpaid.

45 These expenditures shall be restricted (i) to situations in which a patient is financially unable
46 to afford ambulance or other transportation for discharge; (ii) to afford placement in an after-care
47 facility; (iii) to assure availability of a bed in an after-care facility after discharge from the
48 hospitals; (iv) to secure equipment or other medically appropriate services after discharge; or (v)
49 to pay health insurance premiums. The Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer's
50 designee shall reevaluate at least once a month the cost effectiveness of any continuing payment
51 on behalf of a patient.

1 To the extent that the System advances anticipated government entitlement benefits for a
2 patient's benefit, for which the patient later receives a lump sum "back pay" award from an agency
3 of the State, whether for the current admission or subsequent admission, the State agency shall
4 withhold from this back pay an amount equal to the sum advanced on the patient's behalf by the
5 System, if, prior to the disbursement of the back pay, the applicable State program has received
6 notice from the System of the advancement.

7 **"§ 116-350.40. Regulation of UNC Hospitals Funds.**

8 (a) Definition of Funds. – As used in this section, "funds" means:

9 (1) Moneys, or the proceeds of other forms of property, received by the UNC
10 Hospitals as gifts or devises.

11 (2) Moneys received by the UNC Hospitals pursuant to grants from, or contracts
12 with, the United States government or any agency or instrumentality thereof.

13 (3) Moneys received by the UNC Hospitals pursuant to grants from, or contracts
14 with, any State agencies, any political subdivisions of the State, any other
15 states or nations or political subdivisions thereof, or any private entities
16 whereby the UNC Hospitals undertakes, subject to terms and conditions
17 specified by the entity providing the moneys, to conduct research, training, or
18 public service programs.

19 (4) Moneys received from or for the operation by the UNC Hospitals of any of its
20 self-supporting auxiliary enterprises, including the Liability Insurance Trust
21 Fund.

22 (5) Moneys received for services UNC Hospitals and the patient care programs
23 established or maintained by the School of Medicine of the University of
24 North Carolina at Chapel Hill render in its hospital, clinics, and other
25 operations.

26 (6) Moneys received by the UNC Hospitals in respect to borrowings for capital
27 equipment or construction projects to further services it renders in either or
28 both of its hospital or clinical operations.

29 (7) The net proceeds from the disposition effected pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter
30 146 of the General Statutes of any interest in real property owned by or under
31 the supervision and control of the UNC Hospitals if the interest in real
32 property had first been acquired by gift or devise or through expenditure of
33 moneys defined in this section, except the net proceeds from the disposition
34 of an interest in real property first acquired by the UNC Hospitals through
35 expenditure of moneys received as a grant from a State agency or General
36 Fund appropriations.

37 (b) Fund Management. – The Board of the System is responsible for the custody and
38 management of the funds of the UNC Hospitals. The Board shall adopt uniform policies and
39 procedures applicable to the deposit, investment, and administration of these funds, which shall
40 assure that the receipt and expenditure of such funds is properly authorized and that the funds are
41 appropriately accounted for. The Board may delegate authority, through the Chief Executive
42 Officer, to the President of the UNC Hospitals, when such delegation is necessary or prudent to
43 enable the UNC Hospitals to function in a proper and expeditious manner.

44 (c) Fund Expenditure. – Funds under this section and investment earnings thereon are
45 available for expenditure by the UNC Hospitals and are hereby appropriated by the General
46 Assembly.

47 (d) Fund Oversight. – Funds under this section are subject to the oversight of the State
48 Auditor pursuant to Article 5A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes are not subject to the
49 provisions of the State Budget Act, except for operating and capital funds appropriated from the
50 General Fund.

1 (e) Fund Reporting. – The UNC Hospitals shall submit such reports or other information
2 concerning its fund accounts under this section as may be required by the Board.

3 (f) Funds Supplemental. – Funds under this section, or the investment income therefrom,
4 shall not take the place of State appropriations or any part thereof, but any portion of these funds
5 available for general institutional purposes shall be used to supplement State appropriations to
6 the end that the UNC Hospitals may improve and increase their functions, may enlarge their areas
7 of service, and may become more useful to a greater number of people.

8 (g) Fund Investment. – The Board may deposit or invest the funds under this section in
9 interest bearing accounts and other investments in the exercise of its sound discretion, without
10 regard to any statute or rule of law relating to the investment of funds by fiduciaries.

11 **"§ 116-350.45. Purchases.**

12 Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 3, 3A, and 3C of Chapter 143 of the General
13 Statutes and G.S. 143-341(8)(i) of the General Statutes, the Board shall establish policies and
14 regulations governing the purchasing requirements of the System. These policies and regulations
15 shall provide for requests for proposals, competitive bidding or purchasing by means other than
16 competitive bidding, contract negotiations, and contract awards for purchasing supplies,
17 materials, equipment, and services which are necessary and appropriate to fulfill the clinical,
18 educational, research, and community service missions of the System.

19 The Board of Directors shall submit all initial policies and regulations adopted pursuant to
20 this section to the Division of Purchase and Contract for review upon adoption by the Board. Any
21 subsequent changes to these policies and regulations adopted by the Board shall be submitted to
22 the Division of Purchase and Contract for review. Any comments by the Division of Purchase
23 and Contract shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer and to the President of The
24 University of North Carolina.

25 **"§ 116-350.50. Real property.**

26 (a) Acquisition and Disposition. – The Board shall establish policies for acquiring and
27 disposing of any interest in real property by the System and the UNC Hospitals. These policies
28 shall specify procedures for evaluating, negotiating, and approving the acquisition or disposition
29 of an interest in real property by purchase, gift, lease, or rental, but not by condemnation or
30 exercise of eminent domain. Acquisitions and dispositions of interests in real property pursuant
31 to this section shall not be subject to statutes applicable to the acquisition or disposition of interest
32 in real property by or on behalf of State agencies, including, without limitation, the provisions of
33 Article 36 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes or Chapter 146 of the General Statutes.

34 (b) Design and Construction. – The Board may, subject to rules and regulations generally
35 applicable to hospital facilities in the State, adopt policies and procedures that exclusively govern
36 the design, construction, and renovation of buildings, infrastructure, utilities, and other property
37 developments of the System and the UNC Hospitals, including all aspects of vendor selections,
38 contracting, negotiation, and approvals. Design and construction for the System and the UNC
39 Hospitals shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 44A-26 and G.S. 133-1.1 but shall not
40 otherwise be subject to the provisions of statutes applicable to design and construction projects
41 by or on behalf of State agencies.

42 (c) Plan Review and Code Enforcement of Certain Construction Projects. –
43 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a local building code inspection
44 department has general authority over plan review and administration, and enforcement, of all
45 sections of the North Carolina State Building Code for construction or renovation projects
46 undertaken by the System or its component units that are on or within privately owned real
47 property leased by the System, or its component units, within its jurisdiction. Nothing in this
48 subsection shall be construed to abrogate the authority of the Department of Labor under
49 G.S. 143-139(c) and (d).

50 **"§ 116-350.55. Bonds and notes.**

1 (a) Bonds and Notes. – In addition to the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 116D of the
2 General Statutes, the System shall be authorized to issue bonds and notes on behalf of itself or
3 any component units or System affiliate in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter
4 116D of the General Statutes, in the same manner and for the same purposes as the Board of
5 Governors of The University of North Carolina may issue bonds and notes as provided for
6 therein. In doing so, the System shall have the same powers conferred upon the Board of
7 Governors by such Article and, for purposes of this section, references in such Article to the
8 Board of Governors shall mean and be deemed to include the System.

9 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, in connection with the issuance of
10 bonds or notes of the System in accordance with this section and Article 3 of Chapter 116D of
11 the General Statutes, the following provisions shall apply:

12 (1) Institutions within the meaning of G.S. 116D-22 shall include the System and
13 any component unit or System affiliate.

14 (2) The approval of the Director of the Budget, as provided in G.S. 116D-26,
15 116D-27, 116D-29, and 116D-30, shall not apply to bonds or notes issued by
16 the System pursuant to this section and Article 3 of Chapter 116D of the
17 General Statutes.

18 (3) Notwithstanding G.S. 116D-26(b), except as otherwise provided in Article 3
19 of Chapter 116D of the General Statutes, special obligation bond projects may
20 be undertaken, special obligation bonds may be issued, and other powers
21 vested in the Board under this section may be exercised by the Board without
22 obtaining the consent of any department, division, commission, board, bureau,
23 or agency of the State and without any other proceedings or the happening of
24 any other conditions or things other than those proceedings, conditions, or
25 things which are specifically required by this section and Article 3 of Chapter
26 116D of the General Statutes.

27 (4) Nothing herein shall limit or restrict the right of the System to obtain a loan
28 from a financial institution, provided that the System may not pledge real
29 property owned by the State of North Carolina as collateral.

30 **§ 116-350.60. Nonprofit merger authority.**

31 The University of North Carolina Health Care System and any domestic nonprofit
32 corporation may merge in the manner provided in G.S. 55A-11-09, except that the merger need
33 not comply with G.S. 55A-11-02 as required by G.S. 55A-11-09(b)(3). For the purposes of this
34 section, the University of North Carolina Health Care System is deemed an unincorporated
35 "business entity" as defined in G.S. 55A-11-09(a) and the University of North Carolina Health
36 Care System or the University of North Carolina Hospitals is the surviving business entity of any
37 merger effected pursuant to this section. For any plan of merger pursuant to this section, along
38 with the applicable items set forth in the articles of merger under G.S. 55A-11-09(d), the
39 University of North Carolina Health Care System shall set forth reference to this section.
40 G.S. 55A-11-09(e1) does not apply to a merger under this section.

41 **§ 116-350.65. Public records.**

42 The following records of the System are not public records under Chapter 132 of the General
43 Statutes:

44 (1) Records related to patient care and patient services, including, but not limited
45 to, patient records, vendor contracts, quality initiatives, quality measures, and
46 reports related to quality requirements; provided, however, that any contracts
47 with other State agencies or documents publicly reported to government
48 regulatory or oversight bodies shall be considered public records.

49 (2) Records related to strategic planning or initiatives, including potential
50 affiliations and new services or businesses.

1 (3) Consultations with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
2 Operations as provided by law.

3 **"§ 116-350.70. State action.**

4 Subject to the provisions and limitations of Parts 1 and 2 of this Article, the Board may enter
5 into cooperative agreements with any other entity for the provision of health care, including the
6 acquisition, allocation, sharing, or joint operation of hospitals or any other health care facilities
7 or health care provider, without regard to their effect on market competition. When partnering
8 with community hospitals and other health systems in various regions of the State, the System is
9 acting according to State policy by ensuring that health care is made available to all parts of North
10 Carolina; its activities constitute "State action" for purposes of antitrust law. The General
11 Assembly intends that these agreements are immune from the application of federal and State
12 antitrust law.

13 "Part 2. Liability Insurance or Self-Insurance.

14 **"§ 116-350.100. Authorization to secure insurance or provide self-insurance.**

15 The Board is authorized through the purchase of contracts of insurance or the creation of
16 self-insurance trusts, or through combination of such insurance and self-insurance, to provide the
17 System, UNC Hospitals, System affiliates, and individual health care practitioners with coverage
18 against claims of personal or entity tort liability based on conduct within the course and scope of
19 health care functions undertaken by such entities or individuals as employees, agents, or officers
20 of (i) the System, (ii) the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill, or (iii) any health
21 care institution, agency, or entity which has an affiliation agreement with the System or with the
22 University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill. The types of health care practitioners to
23 which the provisions of this Part may apply include, but are not limited to, medical doctors,
24 dentists, nurses, residents, interns, medical technologists, nurses' aides, and orderlies. Subject to
25 all requirements and limitations of this Article, the coverage to be provided, through insurance
26 or self-insurance or combination thereof, may include provision for the payment of expenses of
27 litigation, the payment of civil judgments in courts of competent jurisdiction, and the payment of
28 settlement amounts, in actions, suits, or claims to which this Part applies.

29 **"§ 116-350.105. Establishment and administration of self-insurance trust funds; rules and**
30 **regulations; defense of actions against covered persons; application of**
31 **G.S. 143-300.6.**

32 (a) In the event the Board elects to act as self-insurer of a program of liability insurance,
33 it may establish one or more insurance trust accounts to be used only for the purposes authorized
34 by this Article; provided, however, said program of liability insurance shall not be subject to
35 regulation by the Commissioner of Insurance. The Board is authorized to receive and accept any
36 gift, donation, appropriation, or transfer of funds made for the purposes of this section and to
37 deposit such funds in the insurance trust accounts. All expenses incurred in collecting, receiving,
38 and maintaining such funds and in otherwise administering the self-insured program of liability
39 insurance shall be paid from such insurance trust accounts.

40 (b) Subject to all requirements and limitations of this Article, the Board is authorized to
41 adopt rules and regulations for the establishment and administration of the self-insured program
42 of liability insurance, including, but not limited to, rules and regulations concerning the eligibility
43 for and terms and conditions of participation in the program, the assessment of charges against
44 participants, the management of the insurance trust accounts, and the negotiation, settlement,
45 litigation, and payment of claims.

46 (c) The Board is authorized to create a UNC Health Liability Insurance Trust Fund
47 Council composed of not more than 13 members; one member each shall be appointed by the
48 State Attorney General, the State Insurance Commissioner, the Director of the Office of State
49 Budget and Management, and the State Treasurer; the remaining members shall be appointed by
50 the Board. Subject to all requirements and limitations of this Article and to any rules and
51 regulations adopted by the Board under the terms of subsection (b) of this section, the Board may

1 delegate to the UNC Health Liability Insurance Trust Fund Council responsibility and authority
2 for the administration of the self-insured liability insurance program and of the insurance trust
3 accounts established pursuant to such program.

4 (d) Defense of all suits or actions against an individual health care practitioner who is
5 covered by a self-insured program of liability insurance established by the Board under the
6 provisions of this Article may be provided by the Attorney General in accordance with the
7 provisions of G.S. 143-300.3 of Article 31A of Chapter 143; provided, that in the event it should
8 be determined pursuant to G.S. 143-300.4 that defense of such a claim should not be provided
9 by the State, or if it should be determined pursuant to G.S. 143-300.5 and G.S. 147-17 that
10 counsel other than the Attorney General should be employed or, if the individual health care
11 practitioner is not an employee of the State as defined in G.S. 143-300.2, then private legal
12 counsel may be employed by the UNC Health Liability Insurance Trust Fund Council and paid
13 for from funds in the insurance trust accounts.

14 (e) For purposes of the requirements of G.S. 143-300.6, the coverage provided State
15 employees by any self-insured program of liability insurance established by the Board pursuant
16 to the provisions of this Article shall be deemed to be commercial liability insurance coverage
17 within the meaning of G.S. 143-300.6(c).

18 (f) By rules or regulations adopted by the Board in accordance with subsection (b) of this
19 section, the Board may provide that funds maintained in insurance trust accounts under such a
20 self-insured program of liability insurance may be used to pay any expenses, including damages
21 ordered to be paid, which may be incurred by the System or the University of North Carolina
22 Hospitals at Chapel Hill with respect to any tort claim, based on alleged negligent acts in the
23 provision of health care services, which may be prosecuted under the provisions of Article 31 of
24 Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.

25 **"§ 116-350.110. Funding of self-insurance program.**

26 (a) If the Board elects to establish a self-insurance trust fund, the initial contribution to
27 the fund shall be determined by an independent actuary but shall be no less than three hundred
28 thousand dollars (\$300,000). Annual contributions to said fund shall be made in an amount to be
29 determined each year by the UNC Health Liability Insurance Trust Fund Council upon the advice
30 of an independent actuary and shall include amounts necessary to pay all costs of administration
31 of the self-insurance program and claims adjustment, including litigation in addition to amounts
32 necessary to pay claims. Contributions shall be no less than one hundred fifty percent (150%) of
33 the amounts actually paid each year on medical malpractice claims until such time as the UNC
34 Health Liability Insurance Trust Fund Council, with the advice of an independent actuary and
35 the approval of the Board, determines that an annual contribution in a lesser amount will not
36 impair the adequacy of the fund to satisfy existing and potential health care malpractice claims
37 for a period of one year.

38 (b) Claims certified to be paid from the fund shall be paid in the order of award or
39 settlement. In the event that the fund created hereunder shall at any time have insufficient funds
40 to assure that both existing and future claims will be paid, the Board is hereby authorized to
41 borrow necessary amounts up to thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) per established
42 self-insurance trust fund account to replenish the fund. The Board shall maintain funds in each
43 self-insurance trust at no less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) at all times.

44 (c) Funds borrowed by the Board to replenish the trust fund account may be secured by
45 pledging noncapital assets of the members. Members shall mean those entities, agencies,
46 departments, or divisions of the System which directly contribute funds to the self-insurance
47 trust. In no event shall individual health care providers be deemed members for the purposes of
48 this section.

49 (d) Obligations issued under the provisions of this Part shall not be deemed to constitute
50 a debt, liability, or obligation of the State or of any political subdivision thereof or a pledge of
51 the faith and credit of the State or of any such political subdivision but shall be payable solely

1 from the revenues or assets of the members. Each obligation issued under this Part shall contain
2 on the face thereof a statement to the effect that the System shall not be obligated to pay the same
3 nor the interest thereon except from the revenues or assets pledged therefor and that neither the
4 faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State or of any political subdivision thereof is pledged
5 to the payment of the principal of or the interest on such obligation.

6 **"§ 116-350.115. Termination of fund.**

7 Any fund created hereunder may be terminated by the Board upon their determination that
8 other satisfactory and adequate arrangements have been made to assure that both existing and
9 future health care malpractice claims or judgments against the participants in the self-insurance
10 program will be paid and satisfied. Upon the termination of any fund pursuant to this section, the
11 full amount remaining in such fund upon termination less any outstanding indebtedness shall
12 promptly be repaid to the System and allocated among the participating entities according to their
13 respective contributions as determined by the Board.

14 **"§ 116-350.120. Sovereign immunity.**

15 Nothing in this Article shall be deemed to waive the sovereign immunity of the State.

16 **"§ 116-350.125. Confidentiality of records.**

17 Records pertaining to the liability insurance program, including all information,
18 correspondence, investigations, or interviews concerning or pertaining to claims or potential
19 claims against participants in the self-insurance program or to the program or applications for
20 participation in the program shall not be considered public records under Chapter 132 of the
21 General Statutes and shall not be subject to discovery under the Rules of Civil Procedure, Chapter
22 1A of the General Statutes.

23 **"§ 116-350.130. Further action.**

24 The Board is hereby authorized to take all action necessary to effectuate the purposes and
25 provisions of this Part.

26 **"§ 116-350.135. Appropriation.**

27 The funds described by this Part are appropriated and shall be used only as provided by this
28 Part.

29 **"§§ 116-350.136 to 116-359.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

30 "Article 39.

31 "East Carolina University Health Care Operations.

32 **"§ 116-360.5. Definitions.**

33 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 34 (1) Board of Trustees. – The Board of Trustees of East Carolina University.
- 35 (2) Career State employee status. – As defined in G.S. 126-1.1.
- 36 (3) Chancellor. – The Chancellor of East Carolina University.
- 37 (4) ECU Dental School Clinical Operations. – A division of the School of Dental
38 Medicine at East Carolina University that operates clinical programs and
39 facilities in Greenville, North Carolina, and across the State for the purpose of
40 providing medical care to the general public and training dentists and other
41 health care professionals.
- 42 (5) Medical Faculty Practice Plan. – A division of the School of Medicine of East
43 Carolina University that operates clinical programs and facilities for the
44 purpose of providing medical care to the general public and training
45 physicians and other health care professionals.
- 46 (6) President. – The President of The University of North Carolina.
- 47 (7) School of Medicine. – The Brody School of Medicine of East Carolina
48 University.

49 **"§ 116-360.10. East Carolina University School of Medicine; establishment; mission.**

50 (a) Establishment. – The Board of Trustees of East Carolina University is hereby
51 authorized to establish a school of medicine at East Carolina University, Greenville, North

1 Carolina. The school of medicine shall meet all requirements and regulations of the Council on
2 Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, the Association of
3 American Medical Colleges, and other such accrediting agencies whose approval is normally
4 required for the establishment and operation of a two-year medical school.

5 (b) Mission. – The School of Medicine shall provide instruction and training leading to a
6 medical degree, advanced and doctoral degrees in biomedical sciences and related fields, and
7 other credentials; facilitate the education of physicians and other health care providers in
8 partnership with schools and colleges within East Carolina University, The University of North
9 Carolina System, and its affiliated enterprises; provide patient care and facilitate the financial
10 sustainability of East Carolina University's School of Medicine and health sciences programs
11 through clinical collaboration with and joint operation of health care facilities with one or more
12 hospitals or health systems; engage in research and render other services designed to promote the
13 health and well-being of the citizens of North Carolina, with particular focus on rural areas of the
14 State; and drive innovation and transformation in health care services delivery, with particular
15 focus on rural health care services delivery.

16 **"§ 116-360.15. Personnel and operations.**

17 (a) Employment Authority. – East Carolina University School of Medicine may employ
18 a workforce to conduct its operations of the Medical Faculty Practice Plan and the ECU Dental
19 School Clinical Operations. Employees who are employed directly by Medical Faculty Practice
20 Plan and the ECU Dental School Clinical Operations, and not by an affiliated hospital or health
21 system, are State employees whose terms and conditions of employment, including benefit plans
22 and programs, are determined by the Chancellor, subject to the direction of the President. Only
23 Articles 5, 6, 7, and 14 of Chapter 126 of the General Statutes, the State Human Resources Act,
24 apply to these State employees. Subject to the approval of the President, the Chancellor may
25 authorize East Carolina University to employ the faculty and staff of the School of Medicine and
26 other health affairs schools and components of East Carolina University, subject to the provisions
27 of this section. All employees who are faculty members shall remain subject to the faculty
28 policies of East Carolina University, as established or adopted pursuant to delegation from the
29 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina. A State employee employed by East
30 Carolina University as part of the Medical Faculty Practice Plan or ECU Dental School Clinical
31 Operations prior to November 1, 2023, has the right to (i) continued State employment if the
32 employee remains in the employee's current role or position, unless terminated in accordance
33 with the terms of employment that existed immediately prior to November 1, 2023, subject to all
34 relevant provisions of State and federal law and (ii) continued participation in the State Teachers'
35 and State Employees' Retirement System if the employee was enrolled in the Retirement System
36 immediately prior to November 1, 2023, and maintains State employee status.

37 (b) Certain Career State Employees. – Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, all
38 of the following applies:

39 (1) For employees of the Medical Faculty Practice Plan. – The compensation of a
40 State employee who achieved career State employee status by October 31,
41 1998, shall not be reduced as a result of this section and that employee shall
42 (i) remain subject to the rules regarding discipline or discharge that were
43 effective on October 31, 1998, and (ii) not be subject to the rules regarding
44 discipline or discharge adopted after that date.

45 (2) For employees of the ECU Dental School Clinical Operations. – The
46 compensation of a State employee who achieved career State employee status
47 by June 30, 2022, shall not be reduced as a result of this section and that
48 employee shall (i) remain subject to the rules regarding discipline or discharge
49 that were effective on June 30, 2022, and (ii) not be subject to the rules
50 regarding discipline or discharge adopted after that date.

1 (c) Subject to the direction of the President and so long as it is to the benefit of the School
2 of Medicine, East Carolina University, or The University of North Carolina System, the
3 Chancellor may take any of the following actions:

4 (1) Enter into partnerships, affiliations, joint operating agreements, and other
5 arrangements with hospitals, health systems, and other health care partners on
6 behalf of the School of Medicine or East Carolina University.

7 (2) Assign employees to assist with the establishment and operation of any
8 partnerships, affiliations, joint operating agreements, and other arrangements
9 entered into pursuant to this subsection.

10 (3) Make available office space, equipment, supplies, and other related resources
11 as part of any partnerships, affiliations, joint operating agreements, and other
12 arrangements entered into pursuant to this subsection.

13 **"§ 116-360.20. Finances.**

14 (a) Budgeting. – The School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, and ECU
15 Dental School Clinical Operations, shall not be subject to the provisions of the State Budget Act,
16 except for General Fund appropriations, or otherwise subject to the authority, oversight, or
17 control of the Office of the State Controller. The School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty
18 Practice Plan, and ECU Dental School Clinical Operations shall be subject to the authority and
19 oversight of the Office of the State Auditor. The Chancellor, subject to the direction of the
20 President, shall be responsible for all aspects of budget preparation, budget execution, and
21 expenditure reporting for the School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, and ECU
22 Dental School Clinical Operations. Except for General Fund appropriations, all receipts for the
23 Medical Faculty Practice Plan and ECU Dental School Clinical Operations may be invested
24 pursuant to G.S. 116-36.1. General Fund appropriations for support of the Medical Faculty
25 Practice Plan shall be budgeted in a General Fund code under a single purpose, "Contributions
26 to Medical Faculty Practice Plan at East Carolina University," and be transferable to a special
27 fund operating code as receipts. All revenues generated from operations, appropriations, or funds
28 of the Medical Faculty Practice Plan shall exclusively be used in furtherance of the missions and
29 goals of the Medical Faculty Practice Plan and School of Medicine as determined or approved
30 by the Chancellor.

31 (b) Medicare Receipts. – The East Carolina University School of Medicine shall request,
32 on a regular basis consistent with the State's cash management plan, funds earned by the School
33 from Medicare reimbursements for education costs. Upon receipt, these funds are appropriated
34 and shall be allocated as follows:

35 (1) The portion of the Medicare reimbursement generated through the effort and
36 expense of the School of Medicine's Medical Faculty Practice Plan shall be
37 transferred to the appropriate Medical Faculty Practice Plan account within
38 the School of Medicine. The Medical Faculty Practice Plan shall assume
39 responsibility for any of these funds that subsequently must be refunded due
40 to final audit settlements.

41 (2) Funds that were received pursuant to this section prior to July 1, 2005, and
42 that were transferred to a special fund account on deposit with the State
43 Treasurer are appropriated to the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina
44 University and may be expended by the Brody School of Medicine for the
45 family medicine center and for purposes consistent with its stated mission.

46 **"§ 116-360.25. Purchases.**

47 Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 3, 3A, and 3C of Chapter 143 of the General
48 Statutes to the contrary, the Chancellor shall establish policies and regulations governing the
49 purchasing requirements of the School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, and ECU
50 Dental School Clinical Operations. These policies and regulations shall provide for requests for
51 proposals, competitive bidding, or purchasing by means other than competitive bidding, contract

1 negotiations, and contract awards for purchasing supplies, materials, equipment, and services
2 which are necessary and appropriate to fulfill the clinical and educational missions of the School
3 of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, and ECU Dental School Clinical Operations.
4 Pursuant to such policies and regulations, purchases for the School of Medicine, the Medical
5 Faculty Practice Plan, and ECU Dental School Clinical Operations shall be effected by East
6 Carolina University.

7 The Chancellor shall submit all initial policies and regulations adopted under this section to
8 the Division of Purchase and Contract for review upon adoption by the Chancellor. Any
9 subsequent changes to these policies and regulations adopted by the Chancellor shall be
10 submitted to the Division of Purchase and Contract for review. Any comments by the Division
11 of Purchase and Contract shall be submitted to the Chancellor of East Carolina University and to
12 the President of The University of North Carolina.

13 **"§ 116-360.30. Public records.**

14 The following records of East Carolina University School of Medicine and ECU Dental
15 School Clinical Operations are not public records under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes:

- 16 (1) Records related to research, patient care, and patient services, including, but
17 not limited to, patient records, vendor contracts, quality initiatives, quality
18 measures, and reports related to quality requirements; provided, however, that
19 any contracts with other State agencies or documents publicly reported to
20 government regulatory or oversight bodies shall be considered public records.
- 21 (2) Records related to strategic planning or initiatives, including potential
22 affiliations and new services or businesses.
- 23 (3) Consultations with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
24 Operations as provided by law.

25 **"§ 116-360.35. Real property.**

26 (a) Acquisition and Disposition. – The Chancellor of East Carolina University shall
27 establish rules and regulations for acquiring or disposing of any interest in real property for the
28 use of the School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, and ECU Dental School
29 Clinical Operations. These rules and regulations shall include provisions for development of
30 specifications, advertisement, and negotiations with owners for acquisition of an interest in real
31 property by purchase, gift, lease, or rental, but not by condemnation or exercise of eminent
32 domain, on behalf of the School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, and ECU Dental
33 School Clinical Operations. Acquisitions and dispositions of interests in real property pursuant
34 to this section shall not be subject to State laws applicable to the acquisition or disposition of
35 interest in real property by or on behalf of State agencies, including, without limitation, the
36 provisions of Article 36 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes or the provisions of Chapter 146
37 of the General Statutes.

38 (b) Design and Construction. – The Chancellor may, subject to rules and regulations
39 generally applicable to educational facilities and health care facilities in the State, adopt policies
40 and procedures that shall exclusively govern the design, construction, and renovation of
41 buildings, infrastructure, utilities, and other property developments of the School of Medicine,
42 including all aspects of vendor selections, contracting, negotiation, and approvals. Design and
43 construction for the School of Medicine are subject to the requirements of G.S. 44A-26 and
44 G.S. 133-1.1 but are otherwise exempt from other State laws applicable to design and
45 construction projects by or on behalf of State agencies.

46 (c) Plan Review and Code Enforcement of Certain Construction Projects. –
47 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a local building code inspection
48 department has general authority over plan review, administration, and enforcement of all
49 sections of the North Carolina State Building Code with respect to construction or renovation
50 projects undertaken by the School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, or ECU Dental
51 Clinical Operations that are on or within privately owned real property leased by the School of

1 Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, or ECU Dental Clinical Operations within the
 2 jurisdiction of the local building code inspection department. Nothing in this subsection shall be
 3 construed to abrogate the authority of the Department of Labor under subsections (c) and (d) of
 4 G.S. 143-139.

5 **"§ 116-360.40. State action.**

6 Subject to the provisions and limitations of this Article, the Chancellor of East Carolina
 7 University, subject to the direction of the President of The University of North Carolina, may
 8 enter into cooperative agreements on behalf of the School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty
 9 Practice Plan, and ECU Dental School Clinical Operations with any other entity for the provision
 10 of health care, including the acquisition, allocation, sharing, or joint operation of hospitals or any
 11 other health care facilities or health care provider, without regard to their effect on market
 12 competition. When partnering with community hospitals and health systems in various regions
 13 of the State, the School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, and ECU Dental School
 14 Clinical Operations are acting according to State policy by ensuring that health care is made
 15 available to all parts of North Carolina; their activities constitute "State action" for purposes of
 16 antitrust law. The General Assembly intends that these agreements are immune from the
 17 application of federal and State antitrust law."

18
 19 **CONFORMING AND OTHER CHANGES**

20 **SECTION 4.10.(c)** G.S. 66-58 reads as rewritten:

21 **"§ 66-58. Sale of merchandise or services by governmental units.**

22 (a) Except as ~~may be~~ provided in this section, it ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any unit,
 23 ~~department~~ department, or agency of the State government, or any division or subdivision of the
 24 unit, ~~department~~ department, or agency, or any individual employee or employees of the unit,
 25 ~~department~~ department, or agency in his, ~~or~~ her, or their capacity as employee or employees
 26 ~~thereof~~, thereof to engage directly or indirectly in the sale of goods, ~~wares~~ wares, or merchandise
 27 in competition with citizens of the State, or to engage in the operation of restaurants, cafeterias
 28 or other eating places in any building owned by or leased in the name of the State, or to maintain
 29 service establishments for the rendering of services to the public ordinarily and customarily
 30 rendered by private enterprises, or to provide transportation services, or to contract with any
 31 person, ~~firm~~ firm, or corporation for the operation or rendering of the businesses or services on
 32 behalf of the unit, ~~department~~ department, or agency, or to purchase for or sell to any person,
 33 ~~firm~~ firm, or corporation any article of merchandise in competition with private enterprise. The
 34 leasing or subleasing of space in any building owned, ~~leased~~ leased, or operated by any unit,
 35 ~~department or agency or division or subdivision thereof~~ department, agency, division, or
 36 subdivision of the State for the purpose of operating or rendering of any of the businesses or
 37 services ~~herein~~ referred to in this section is ~~hereby~~ prohibited.

38 (b) ~~The provisions of subsection~~ Subsection (a) of this section ~~shall~~ does not apply ~~to~~
 39 any of the following:

40 ...

41 (8) The University of North Carolina with regard ~~to~~ to all of the following:

42 ...

43 e. The hospital and Medical School of the University of North Carolina.

44 e1. The University of North Carolina Health Care System.

45"

46 **SECTION 4.10.(d)** G.S. 116-30.3A reads as rewritten:

47 **"§ 116-30.3A. Availability of excess receipts.**

48 Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 143C of the General Statutes, receipts within The
 49 University of North Carolina realized in excess of budgeted levels shall be available, up to a
 50 maximum of ten percent (10%) above budgeted levels, for each Budget Code, in addition to
 51 appropriations to support the operations generating the receipts as approved by the Director of

1 the Budget. Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 143C of the General Statutes, receipts
 2 within The University of North Carolina Health Care System realized in excess of budgeted
 3 levels shall be available above budgeted levels, for each Budget Code, in addition to
 4 appropriations to support the operations generating the receipts as approved by the Director of
 5 the Budget."

6 **SECTION 4.10.(e)** G.S. 116-219 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 116-219. Authorization to secure insurance or provide self-insurance.**

8 The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina (hereinafter referred to as "the
 9 Board") is authorized through the purchase of contracts of insurance or the creation of
 10 self-insurance trusts, or through combination of such insurance and self-insurance, to provide
 11 individual health-care practitioners with coverage against claims of personal tort liability based
 12 on conduct within the course and scope of health-care functions undertaken by such individuals
 13 as employees, agents, or officers of (i) the University of North Carolina, (ii) any constituent
 14 institution of the University of North Carolina, ~~(iii) the University of North Carolina Hospitals~~
 15 ~~at Chapel Hill, or (iv)-(iii)~~ any health-care institution, agency or entity which has an affiliation
 16 agreement with the University of North Carolina, Carolina or with a constituent institution of the
 17 University of North Carolina, ~~or with the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill-~~
 18 Carolina. The types of health-care practitioners to which the provisions of this Article may apply
 19 include, but are not limited to, medical doctors, dentists, nurses, residents, interns, medical
 20 technologists, nurses' aides, and orderlies. Subject to all requirements and limitations of this
 21 Article, the coverage to be provided, through insurance or self-insurance or combination thereof,
 22 may include provision for the payment of expenses of litigation, the payment of civil judgments
 23 in courts of competent jurisdiction, and the payment of settlement amounts, in actions, suits or
 24 claims to which this Article applies."

25 **SECTION 4.10.(f)** G.S. 116-220(f) reads as rewritten:

26 "(f) By rules or regulations adopted by the Board in accordance with G.S. 116-220(b) of
 27 this Article, the Board may provide that funds maintained in insurance trust accounts under such
 28 a self-insured program of liability insurance may be used to pay any expenses, including damages
 29 ordered to be paid, which may be incurred by the University of North Carolina, Carolina or a
 30 constituent institution of the University of North Carolina, ~~or the University of North Carolina~~
 31 ~~Hospitals at Chapel Hill~~ Carolina with respect to any tort claim, based on alleged negligent acts
 32 in the provision of health-care services, which may be prosecuted under the provisions of Article
 33 31 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes."

34 **SECTION 4.10.(g)** G.S. 116D-1(11) reads as rewritten:

35 "(11) University. – The University of North Carolina and its constituent and
 36 affiliated institutions, including, without limitation, the University of North
 37 Carolina Center for Public Television, ~~the University of North Carolina Health~~
 38 ~~Care System~~, the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, and the
 39 North Carolina Arboretum."

40 **SECTION 4.10.(h)** G.S. 116D-22(2) reads as rewritten:

41 "(2) Institution. – Each of the institutions enumerated in G.S. 116-2, and any
 42 affiliated institutions of the University, including, without limitation, the
 43 University of North Carolina Center for Public Television, ~~the University of~~
 44 ~~North Carolina Health Care System~~, the North Carolina School of Science and
 45 Mathematics, and the North Carolina Arboretum."

46 **SECTION 4.10.(i)** G.S. 126-5(c8) reads as rewritten:

47 "(c8) Except as to Articles 5, 6, 7, and 14 of this Chapter, this Chapter does not apply to
 48 any of the following:

- 49 (1) Employees of the University of North Carolina Health Care System.
 50 (2) Employees of the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill, ~~as~~
 51 ~~may be provided pursuant to G.S. 116-37(a)(4).~~ Hill.

(3) Employees of the clinical patient care programs of the School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as may be provided pursuant to G.S. 116-37(a)(4).Hill.

...."

SECTION 4.10.(j) G.S. 131E-13 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(i) This section does not apply to a transaction that is part of an agreement between a municipality or hospital authority and the University of North Carolina Health Care System for the lease, sale, or conveyance of a hospital facility, or part of a hospital facility, to the University of North Carolina Health Care System."

SECTION 4.10.(k) G.S. 135-1(10) reads as rewritten:

"(10) "Employee" shall mean all full-time employees, agents or officers of the State of North Carolina or any of its departments, bureaus and institutions other than educational, whether such employees are elected, appointed or employed: Provided that the term "employee" shall not include employees of the University of North Carolina Health Care System who are not eligible for participation under G.S. 135-5.6, employees of the East Carolina University School of Medicine or Dental School of Medicine who are not eligible for participation under G.S. 135-5.7, any person who is a member of the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System, any member of the General Assembly or any part-time or temporary employee. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, "employee" shall include all employees of the General Assembly except participants in the Legislative Intern Program, pages, and beneficiaries in receipt of a monthly retirement allowance under this Chapter who are reemployed on a temporary basis. "Employee" also includes any participant whose employment is interrupted by reason of service in the Uniformed Services, as that term is defined in section 4303(16) of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, Public Law 103-353, if that participant was an employee at the time of the interruption; if the participant does not return immediately after that service to employment with a covered employer in this System, then the participant shall be deemed "in service" until the date on which the participant was first eligible to be separated or released from his or her involuntary military service. In all cases of doubt, the Board of Trustees shall determine whether any person is an employee as defined in this Chapter. "Employee" shall also mean every full-time civilian employee of the North Carolina National Guard who is employed pursuant to section 709 of Title 32 of the United States Code and paid from federal appropriated funds, but held by the federal authorities not to be a federal employee: Provided, however, that the authority or agency paying the salaries of such employees shall deduct or cause to be deducted from each employee's salary the employee's contribution in accordance with applicable provisions of G.S. 135-8 and remit the same, either directly or indirectly, to the Retirement System; coverage of employees described in this sentence shall commence upon the first day of the calendar year or fiscal year, whichever is earlier, next following the date of execution of an agreement between the Secretary of Defense of the United States and the Adjutant General of the State acting for the Governor in behalf of the State, but no credit shall be allowed pursuant to this sentence for any service previously rendered in the above-described capacity as a civilian employee of the North Carolina National Guard: Provided, further, that the Adjutant General, in the Adjutant General's discretion, may terminate the Retirement System coverage of the above-described North Carolina National Guard employees if a federal

1 retirement system is established for such employees and the Adjutant General
 2 elects to secure coverage of such employees under such federal retirement
 3 system. Any full-time civilian employee of the North Carolina National Guard
 4 described above who is now or hereafter may become a member of the
 5 Retirement System may secure Retirement System credit for such service as
 6 a North Carolina National Guard civilian employee for the period preceding
 7 the time when such employees became eligible for Retirement System
 8 coverage by paying to the Retirement System an amount equal to that which
 9 would have constituted employee contributions if the employee had been a
 10 member during the years of ineligibility, plus interest. Employees of State
 11 agencies, departments, institutions, boards, and commissions who are
 12 employed in permanent job positions on a recurring basis must work at least
 13 30 hours per week for nine or more months per calendar year in order to be
 14 covered by the provisions of this subdivision. On and after August 1, 2001, a
 15 person who is a nonimmigrant alien and who otherwise meets the
 16 requirements of this subdivision shall not be excluded from the definition of
 17 "employee" solely because the person holds a temporary or time-limited visa."

18 **SECTION 4.10.(l)** G.S. 135-1(11) reads as rewritten:

19 "(11) "Employer" shall mean the State of North Carolina, the county board of
 20 education, the city board of education, the State Board of Education, the board
 21 of trustees of the University of North Carolina, the University of North
 22 Carolina Health Care System, the board of trustees of other institutions and
 23 agencies supported and under the control of the State, or any other agency of
 24 and within the State by which a teacher or other employee is paid. For
 25 purposes of reporting under the pronouncements by the Governmental
 26 Accounting Standards Board, the Retirement System is a multi-employer
 27 plan."

28 **SECTION 4.10.(m)** G.S. 135-3(8)f. is recodified as G.S. 135-3(d).

29 **SECTION 4.10.(n)** G.S. 135-3, as amended by subsection (m) of this section, reads

30 as rewritten:

31 "**§ 135-3. Membership.**

32 (a) The membership of this Retirement System shall be composed as follows:

33 ...

34 ~~(8a)(b)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of ~~paragraphs e and d~~ sub-subdivisions c. and d. of
 35 subdivision (8) of this section to the contrary, a beneficiary who was a beneficiary retired on an
 36 early or service retirement with the Law Enforcement Officers' Retirement System at the time of
 37 the transfer of law enforcement officers employed by the State and beneficiaries last employed
 38 by the State to this Retirement System on January 1, 1985, and who also was a contributing
 39 member of this Retirement System on January 1, 1985, shall continue to be paid his or her
 40 retirement allowance without restriction and may continue as a member of this Retirement
 41 System with all the rights and privileges appendant to membership.

42 ~~(9)(c)~~ Members who are participating in an intergovernmental exchange of personnel under
 43 the provisions of Article 10 of Chapter 126 may retain their membership status and receive all
 44 benefits provided by this Chapter during the period of the exchange provided the requirements
 45 of Article 10 of Chapter 126 are met; provided further, that a member participating in an
 46 intergovernmental exchange of personnel under Article 10 of Chapter 126 shall, notwithstanding
 47 whether ~~he the member~~ and ~~his the member's~~ employer are making contributions to the member's
 48 account during the exchange period, be entitled to the death benefit if ~~he the member~~ otherwise
 49 qualifies under the provisions of this Article and provided further that no duplicate benefits shall
 50 be paid.

1 (d) ~~Should~~ If a beneficiary who retired on an early or service retirement allowance under
 2 this Chapter ~~be is~~ reemployed by, or otherwise engaged to perform services for, an employer
 3 participating in the Retirement System on a part time, temporary, interim, or on a fee for service
 4 basis, whether contractual or otherwise at any time during the six months immediately following
 5 the effective date of retirement, then the option of the ~~two listed below~~ following subdivisions
 6 that has the lesser financial impact on the member, as determined by the Retirement System, shall
 7 be applied:

8 ~~1.~~(1) The member's retirement ~~shall be is~~ deemed effective the month after the last
 9 month the member performed services for a participating employer, and the
 10 member shall repay all retirement benefits paid up to the deemed effective
 11 date, provided the member thereafter has satisfied the six month separation
 12 required by G.S. 135-1(20).

13 ~~2.~~(2) The member shall make a lump sum payment to the Retirement System equal
 14 to three times the amount of compensation earned during the six months
 15 immediately following the effective date of retirement.

16 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article to the contrary, if a member who
 17 retires on an early or service retirement as an employee of the University of North Carolina
 18 Health Care System or the East Carolina University School of Medicine or School of Dental
 19 Medicine is subsequently employed by a non-State entity affiliated with the University of North
 20 Carolina Health Care System or East Carolina University School of Medicine, then that member
 21 shall continue to be paid the member's retirement allowance without restriction. For the purposes
 22 of this subsection, "non-State entity" means an entity that does not satisfy the requirements of
 23 being an employer pursuant to G.S. 135-1(11)."

24 **SECTION 4.10.(o)** G.S. 135-5.1 reads as rewritten:

25 "**§ 135-5.1. Optional retirement program for The University of North Carolina.**

26 (a) An Optional Retirement Program provided for in this section is authorized and
 27 established and shall be implemented by the Board of Governors of The University of North
 28 Carolina. The Optional Retirement Program shall be underwritten by the purchase of annuity
 29 contracts, which may be both fixed and variable contracts or a combination thereof, or financed
 30 through the establishment of a trust, for the benefit of participants in the Program. ~~Participation~~
 31 Subject to any restrictions under G.S. 135-5.6, participation shall be limited to University
 32 personnel who are eligible for membership in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement
 33 Program and who ~~are~~ meet any of the following criteria:

34 (1) Administrators and faculty of The University of North Carolina with the rank
 35 of instructor or ~~above~~; above.

36 (2) The President and employees of The University of North Carolina who are
 37 appointed by the Board of Governors on recommendation of the President
 38 pursuant to G.S. 116-11(4), 116-11(5), and 116-14 or who are appointed by
 39 the Board of Trustees of a constituent institution of The University of North
 40 Carolina upon the recommendation of the Chancellor pursuant to ~~G.S.~~
 41 ~~116-40.22(b)~~; G.S. 116-40.22(b).

42 (3) Nonfaculty instructional and research staff who are exempt from the North
 43 Carolina Human Resources Act, as defined by the provisions of
 44 G.S. 126-5(c1)(8), and the faculty of the North Carolina School of Science
 45 and ~~Mathematics~~; and Mathematics.

46 (4) Field faculty of the Cooperative Agriculture Extension Service, and tenure
 47 track faculty in North Carolina State University agriculture research programs
 48 who are exempt from the North Carolina Human Resources Act and who are
 49 eligible for membership in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement
 50 System pursuant to G.S. 135-3(1), who in any of the cases described in this
 51 subsection (i) had been members of the Optional Retirement Program under

1 the provisions of Chapter 338, Session Laws of 1971, immediately prior to
2 July 1, 1985, or (ii) have sought membership as required in subsection (b),
3 below. Under the Optional Retirement Program, the State and the participant
4 shall contribute, to the extent authorized or required, toward the purchase of
5 such contracts or deposited in such trust on the participant's behalf.

6 (5) ~~Employees~~ To the extent allowed under G.S. 135-5.6, employees of The
7 University of North Carolina Health Care System, subject to rules for
8 eligibility and participation as may be adopted by the Board of Governors in
9 the Optional Retirement Program plan document.

10 (6) Employees hired on or after January 1, 2013.

11 (b) Participation in the Optional Retirement Program shall be governed as follows:

12 (1) Those participating in the Optional Retirement Program immediately prior to
13 July 1, 1985, under the provisions of Chapter 338, Session Laws of 1971, are
14 deemed automatically enrolled in the Program as established by this section.

15 (2) Eligible ~~employees~~ University personnel initially appointed on or after July 1,
16 1985, shall at the same time of entering upon eligible employment elect (i) to
17 join the Retirement System in accordance with the provisions of law
18 applicable thereto or (ii) to participate in the Optional Retirement Program.
19 This election shall be in writing and filed with the Retirement System and with
20 the employing institution and shall be effective ~~as of~~ on the date of entry into
21 eligible service. For purposes of this provision, the Optional Retirement
22 Program shall be permitted to file individual election forms with the
23 Retirement System using electronic transmission.

24 (3) ~~An~~ Except as provided under G.S. 135-5.6 and G.S. 135-5.7, an election to
25 participate in the Optional Retirement Program shall be irrevocable. An
26 eligible employee failing to elect to participate in the Optional Retirement
27 Program at the time of entry into eligible service shall automatically be
28 enrolled as a member of the Retirement System.

29 ...

30 (c) Each employing institution shall contribute on behalf of each participant in the
31 Optional Retirement Program an amount equal to a percentage of the participant's compensation
32 as established from time to time by the General Assembly. Each participant shall contribute the
33 amount which he or she would be required to contribute if a member of the Retirement System.
34 Contributions authorized or required by the provisions of this subsection on behalf of each
35 participant shall be made, consistent with Section 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, by salary
36 reduction according to rules and regulations established by The University of North Carolina.
37 Additional personal contributions may also be made by a participant by payroll deduction or
38 salary reduction to an annuity or retirement income plan established pursuant to G.S. 116-17.
39 Payment of contributions shall be made by the employing institution to the designated company
40 or companies underwriting the annuities or the trustees for the benefit of each participant, and
41 this employer contribution shall not be subject to any State tax if made under the Optional
42 Retirement Program or, otherwise, by salary reduction.

43 ...

44 (g) No retirement benefit, death benefit, or other benefit under the Optional Retirement
45 Program shall be paid by the State of North Carolina, or The University of North Carolina, the
46 University of North Carolina Health Care System, or the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' and
47 State Employees' Retirement System with respect to any employee selecting and participating in
48 the Optional Retirement Program or with respect to any beneficiary of that employee. Benefits
49 shall be payable to participants or their beneficiaries only by the designated company in
50 accordance with the terms of the contracts or trust agreement.

1 (h) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall ensure that the
2 Optional Retirement Program contains benefit forfeiture provisions equivalent to those contained
3 in G.S. 135-18.10A for University personnel who are eligible for membership in the Teachers'
4 and State Employees' Retirement System and have elected participation in the Optional
5 Retirement Program. Any funds forfeited shall be deposited in the Optional Retirement Program
6 trust fund(s)."

7 **SECTION 4.10.(p)** Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes is amended by
8 adding the following new sections to read:

9 **"§ 135-5.6. Employees of the University of North Carolina Health Care System.**

10 (a) All employees of the University of North Carolina Health Care System who are (i)
11 employed before November 1, 2023, and (ii) are members of either the Retirement System or the
12 Optional Retirement Program before November 1, 2023, shall retain membership in that
13 Retirement System or that Optional Retirement Program unless the member makes a one-time,
14 irrevocable election to cease membership in the Retirement System or the Optional Retirement
15 Program in favor of a similar benefit offered by the University of North Carolina Health Care
16 System pursuant to G.S. 116-350.30.

17 (b) Employees of the University of North Carolina Health Care System who are hired on
18 or after November 1, 2023, shall not be eligible for membership in the Retirement System. The
19 University of North Carolina Health Care System shall offer employees of the System who are
20 hired on or after November 1, 2023, any of the following benefits:

21 (1) Membership in the Optional Retirement System.

22 (2) Enrollment in a similar benefit to the Optional Retirement System pursuant to
23 G.S. 116-350.30.

24 (3) A choice between the options provided in subdivision (1) and subdivision (2)
25 of this subsection.

26 (c) If any individual ceases to be employed by the University of North Carolina Health
27 Care System on or after November 1, 2023, and is later rehired by the University of North
28 Carolina Health Care System, then that individual shall be treated as an employee newly hired
29 on or after November 1, 2023, for the purposes of this section.

30 (d) The University of North Carolina Health Care System shall continue to report the
31 payroll of employees employed as of October 31, 2023, and shall continue to remit the employee
32 and employer contributions for all employees retaining membership in the Retirement System or
33 the Optional Retirement Program until none exist.

34 **"§ 135-5.7. Certain employees of East Carolina University.**

35 (a) As used in this section, the terms "Medical Faculty Practice Plan" and "ECU Dental
36 School Clinical Operations" have the same meaning as in G.S. 116-360.5.

37 (b) All employees of the Medical Faculty Practice Plan and the ECU Dental School
38 Clinical Operations who are (i) employed before November 1, 2023, and (ii) are members of
39 either the Retirement System or the Optional Retirement Program before November 1, 2023,
40 shall retain membership in that Retirement System or that Optional Retirement Program unless
41 the member makes a one-time, irrevocable election to cease membership in the Retirement
42 System or the Optional Retirement Program in favor of a similar benefit offered by the East
43 Carolina University School of Medicine, the Medical Faculty Practice Plan, or the ECU Dental
44 School Clinical Operations pursuant to G.S. 116-360.15.

45 (c) Employees of the Medical Faculty Practice Plan or the ECU Dental School Clinical
46 Operations hired on or after November 1, 2023, shall not be eligible for membership in the
47 Retirement System. East Carolina University shall offer employees of the Medical Faculty
48 Practice Plan and employees of the ECU Dental School Clinical Operations who are hired on or
49 after November 1, 2023, any of the following benefits:

50 (1) Membership in the Optional Retirement System.

1 (2) Enrollment in a similar benefit to the Optional Retirement System pursuant to
2 G.S. 116-360.15.

3 (3) A choice between the options provided in subdivision (1) and subdivision (2)
4 of this subsection.

5 (d) If any individual ceases to be employed by the Medical Faculty Practice Plan or the
6 ECU Dental School Clinical Operations on or after November 1, 2023, and is later rehired by the
7 Medical Faculty Practice Plan or the ECU Dental School Clinical Operations, then that individual
8 shall be treated as an employee newly hired on or after November 1, 2023, for the purposes of
9 this section.

10 (e) East Carolina University School of Medicine shall continue to report the payroll of
11 employees employed as of October 31, 2023, and shall continue to remit the employee and
12 employer contributions for all employees retaining membership in the Retirement System or the
13 Optional Retirement Program until none exist."

14 **SECTION 4.10.(q)** G.S. 135-48.1(11) reads as rewritten:

15 "(11) Employing Unit. – A North Carolina School System; Community College;
16 State Department, Agency, or Institution; the University of North Carolina
17 Health Care System; Administrative Office of the Courts; or Association or
18 Examining Board whose employees are eligible for membership in a
19 State-Supported Retirement System. An employing unit also shall mean (i) a
20 charter school in accordance with Article 14A of Chapter 115C of the General
21 Statutes whose board of directors elects to become a participating employer
22 in the Plan under G.S. 135-48.54 or (ii) a local government unit that
23 participates in the Plan under G.S. 135-48.47 or under any other law. Bona
24 fide fire departments, rescue or emergency medical service squads, and
25 National Guard units are deemed to be employing units for the purpose of
26 providing benefits under this Article."

27 **SECTION 4.10.(r)** G.S. 135-48.40(b) reads as rewritten:

28 "(b) Partially Contributory Coverage. – The following persons are eligible for coverage
29 under the Plan, on a partially contributory basis, subject to the provisions of G.S. 135-48.43:

30 (1) All permanent full-time employees of an employing unit who meet ~~either~~ any
31 of the following conditions:

32 a. ~~Paid~~ The employee is paid from general or special State funds.

33 b. ~~Paid~~ The employee is paid from non-State funds and in a group for
34 which his or her employing unit has agreed to provide coverage.

35 Employees of State agencies, departments, institutions, boards, and
36 commissions not otherwise covered by the Plan who are employed in
37 permanent job positions on a recurring basis and who work 30 or more hours
38 per week for nine or more months per calendar year are covered by the
39 provisions of this subdivision.

40 This subdivision shall not apply to employees enrolled in a comprehensive
41 health benefit plan offered by East Carolina University pursuant to
42 G.S. 116-360.15 or the University of North Carolina Health Care System
43 pursuant to G.S. 116-350.30.

44 "

45 **SECTION 4.10.(s)** G.S. 143-56 reads as rewritten:

46 "**§ 143-56. Certain purchases excepted from provisions of Article.**

47 Unless as may otherwise be ordered by the Secretary of Administration, the purchase of
48 supplies, materials and equipment through the Secretary of Administration shall be mandatory in
49 the following cases:

50 (1) Published books, manuscripts, maps, pamphlets and periodicals.

(2) Perishable articles such as fresh vegetables, fresh fish, fresh meat, eggs, and others as may be classified by the Secretary of Administration.

Purchase through the Secretary of Administration shall not be mandatory for information technology purchased in accordance with Article 15 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, for a purchase of supplies, materials or equipment for the General Assembly if the total expenditures is less than the expenditure benchmark established under the provisions of G.S. 143-53.1, for group purchases made by hospitals, developmental centers, neuromedical treatment centers, and alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers through a competitive bidding purchasing program, as defined in G.S. 143-129, by the University of North Carolina Health Care System pursuant to ~~G.S. 116-37(h)~~, G.S. 116-350.45, by the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill pursuant to ~~G.S. 116-37(a)(4)~~, G.S. 116-350.15(d), by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on behalf of the clinical patient care programs of the School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill pursuant to ~~G.S. 116-37(a)(4)~~, G.S. 116-350.15(d), or by East Carolina University on behalf of the Medical Faculty Practice Plan pursuant to ~~G.S. 116-40.6(e)~~, G.S. 116-360.25.

All purchases of the above articles made directly by the departments, institutions and agencies of the State government shall, whenever possible, be based on competitive bids. Whenever an order is placed or contract awarded for such articles by any of the departments, institutions and agencies of the State government, a copy of such order or contract shall be forwarded to the Secretary of Administration and a record of the competitive bids upon which it was based shall be retained for inspection and review."

SECTION 4.10.(t) G.S. 143-596 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-596. Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the context clearly provides otherwise:

...

(1c) Medical Faculty Practice Plan. – As defined in ~~G.S. 116-40.6~~ Article 39 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes.

...

(8) The University of North Carolina Health Care System. – As defined in ~~G.S. 116-37~~ Article 38 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes."

SECTION 4.10.(u) G.S. 143C-1-3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143C-1-3. Fund types.

...

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, funds established for The University of North Carolina and its constituent institutions pursuant to the following statutes are exempt from Chapter 143C of the General Statutes and shall be accounted for as provided by those statutes, except that the provisions of Article 8 of Chapter 143C of the General Statutes shall apply to the funds: G.S. 116-35, 116-36, 116-36.1, 116-36.2, 116-36.4, 116-36.5, ~~116-36.6~~, 116-44.4, 116-68, 116-220, 116-235.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, funds established for the University of North Carolina Health Care System pursuant to G.S. 116-350.40 are exempt from Chapter 143C of the General Statutes and shall be accounted for as provided by those statutes."

SECTION 4.10.(v) G.S. 143C-8-7(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) No State agency may expend funds for the construction or renovation of any capital improvement project except as needed to comply with this Article or otherwise authorized by the General Assembly. Funds that become available by gifts, ~~excess patient receipts above those budgeted at the University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill~~, federal or private grants, receipts becoming a part of special funds by act of the General Assembly, or any other funds available to a State agency or institution may be utilized for advanced planning through the working drawing phase of capital improvement projects, upon approval of the Director of the Budget."

1 **SECTION 4.10.(w)** G.S. 143C-8-8 reads as rewritten:

2 "**§ 143C-8-8. When a State agency may increase the cost of a capital improvement project.**

3 Upon the request of the administration of a State agency, the Director of the Budget may,
4 when in the Director's opinion it is in the best interest of the State to do so, increase the cost of a
5 capital improvement project. Provided, however, that if the Director of the Budget increases the
6 cost of a project, the Director shall report that action to the Joint Legislative Commission on
7 Governmental Operations at its next meeting. The increase may be funded from gifts, federal or
8 private grants, special fund receipts, ~~excess patient receipts above those budgeted at the~~
9 ~~University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill,~~ or direct capital improvement
10 appropriations to that department or institution."

11 **SECTION 4.10.(x)** G.S. 146-22(c) reads as rewritten:

12 "(c) Acquisitions on behalf of the University of North Carolina Health Care System shall
13 be made in accordance with ~~G.S. 116-37(i), G.S. 116-350.50,~~ acquisitions on behalf of the
14 University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill shall be made in accordance with ~~G.S.~~
15 ~~116-37(a)(4), G.S. 116-350.15(d),~~ acquisitions on behalf of the clinical patient care programs of
16 the School of Medicine of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shall be made in
17 accordance with ~~G.S. 116-37(a)(4), G.S. 116-350.15(d),~~ and acquisitions on behalf of the
18 Medical Faculty Practice Plan of the East Carolina University School of Medicine shall be made
19 in accordance with ~~G.S. 116-40.6(d), G.S. 116-360.35(a).~~"

20 **SECTION 4.10.(y)** G.S. 147-69.2(a)(16a) reads as rewritten:

21 "(16a) The University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill funds, except
22 appropriated funds, deposited with the State Treasurer pursuant to
23 ~~G.S. 116-37.2, G.S. 116-350.40.~~"

24 25 **APPROPRIATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NC CARE** 26 **INITIATIVE**

27 **SECTION 4.10.(z)** The General Assembly makes the following findings:

- 28 (1) North Carolina's rural population is among the largest in the United States and
29 is in need of dedicated effort and investment to help improve health outcomes
30 in many of the State's rural communities.
- 31 (2) The East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine, the University of
32 North Carolina School of Medicine, ECU Health, and the University of North
33 Carolina Health Care System are dedicated to extending and improving health
34 care services and health provider education for the benefit of North Carolina
35 citizens and communities; delivering care close to where citizens live and
36 work; and transforming rural health care for the benefit of North Carolina.

37 **SECTION 4.10.(aa)** It is the intent of the General Assembly that ECU Health, UNC
38 Health Care System, and their affiliated schools of medicine will collaborate to establish a new
39 initiative to be known as NC Care. The purpose of the NC Care initiative is to improve access to
40 high quality health care for citizens and communities located in rural areas of North Carolina by
41 establishing outcome driven regional systems of care, beginning in eastern North Carolina. To
42 that end, of the funds appropriated in this act to the Board of Governors of The University of
43 North Carolina, the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025
44 fiscal year shall be allocated to the NC Care initiative. The University of North Carolina Health
45 Care System and ECU Health, through the NC Care initiative, shall use these funds to do the
46 following:

- 47 (1) Invest in strengthening and providing operational support for community
48 hospitals affiliated with the University of North Carolina Health Care System
49 and ECU Health that will be integrated into the new regional systems of care
50 developed through the NC Care initiative.

- 1 (2) Clinically integrate these community hospitals into the new regional systems
2 of care developed through the NC Care initiative.

3 **SECTION 4.10.(bb)** By April 1, 2024, and every six months thereafter, ECU Health
4 and the University of North Carolina Health Care System shall jointly report to the Senate
5 Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Fiscal
6 Research Division regarding the NC Care initiative. The report shall include at least all of the
7 following:

- 8 (1) Progress on the development and implementation of the NC Care initiative.
9 (2) Plans developed through the NC Care initiative for the establishment of new
10 regional systems of care, new rural care centers, or both. The report shall
11 include the location and projected cost of any new regional systems of care,
12 new rural care centers, or both; and the location and projected cost for each.
13 (3) Plans developed through the NC Care initiative for investments in
14 strengthening and providing operational support for community hospitals
15 affiliated with the University of North Carolina Health Care System and ECU
16 Health. The report shall include the amount of funds appropriated by this act
17 that are used for these purposes, broken down by hospital name, hospital
18 location, and the purpose of the investment; and information about how these
19 community hospitals will be integrated into the new regional systems of care
20 developed through the NC Care initiative.
21 (4) The implementation status of the UNC Health and ECU Health Clinically
22 Integrated Network funded by this act.
23 (5) Progress on capital projects and grant projects funded by the State Capital
24 Infrastructure Fund pursuant to Section 40.1 of this act.
25 (6) Any other information the University of North Carolina Health Care System
26 and ECU Health deem necessary for the General Assembly to evaluate the
27 effectiveness of the NC Care initiative.
28

29 **PART V. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

30 **UNEXPENDED DIRECTED GRANTS APPROPRIATED IN 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR** 31 **DO NOT REVERT**

32 **SECTION 5.1.(a)** This section applies to any directed grants appropriated as
33 nonrecurring funds in S.L. 2021-180 for the 2022-23 fiscal year that (i) remain unexpended as of
34 the effective date of this section and (ii) are subject to reversion at the end of the 2022-23 fiscal
35 year. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the grants described by this section
36 shall not revert at the end of the 2022-23 fiscal year and shall remain available for expenditure
37 for the purpose for which the funds were appropriated until the earlier of the date the funds are
38 expended or the date the funds revert pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

39 **SECTION 5.1.(b)** Any funds described in subsection (a) of this section that remain
40 unexpended as of June 30, 2023, shall revert to the appropriate fund at the end of the 2023-24
41 fiscal year.

42 **SECTION 5.1.(c)** This section becomes effective June 30, 2023.
43
44

45 **FUTURE BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING RESERVE FUNDS DO NOT** 46 **REVERT**

47 **SECTION 5.1A.** The nonrecurring funds reserved in the Future Building
48 Maintenance and Operating Reserve in this act for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall not revert and
49 shall remain available until expended.
50

51 **ESTABLISHING OR INCREASING FEES**

1 **SECTION 5.2.(a)** Notwithstanding G.S. 12-3.1, an agency is not required to consult
2 with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations prior to establishing or
3 increasing a fee to the level authorized or anticipated in this act.

4 **SECTION 5.2.(b)** Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-21.1A(a), an agency may adopt an
5 emergency rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1A to establish or increase a fee as authorized
6 by this act if the adoption of a rule would otherwise be required under Article 2A of Chapter
7 150B of the General Statutes.

8 9 **DIRECTED GRANTS TO NON-STATE ENTITIES**

10 **SECTION 5.3.(a)** Definitions. – For purposes of this act and the Committee Report
11 described in Section 43.2 of this act, the following definitions apply:

12 (1) Directed grant. – Nonrecurring funds allocated by a State agency to a
13 non-State entity as directed by an act of the General Assembly.

14 (2) Non-State entity. – As defined in G.S. 143C-1-1.

15 **SECTION 5.3.(b)** Requirements. – Nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act as
16 directed grants are subject to all of the following requirements:

17 (1) Directed grants are subject to the provisions of subsections (b) through (k),
18 except for subdivision (1) of (f1), of G.S. 143C-6-23.

19 (2) Directed grants of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or less may be
20 made in a single annual payment in the discretion of the Director of the
21 Budget. Directed grants of more than one hundred thousand dollars
22 (\$100,000) shall be made in quarterly or monthly payments in the discretion
23 of the Director of the Budget. A State agency administering a directed grant
24 shall begin disbursement of funds to a non-State entity that meets all
25 applicable requirements as soon as practicable, but no later than 100 days after
26 the date this act becomes law. Full disbursement of funds to a non-State entity
27 that meets all applicable requirements shall be completed no later than nine
28 months after the date this act becomes law.

29 (3) Beginning on the first day of a quarter following the deadline provided in
30 subdivision (2) of this subsection and quarterly thereafter, State agencies
31 administering directed grants shall report to the Fiscal Research Division on
32 the status of funds disbursed for each directed grant until all funds are fully
33 disbursed. At a minimum, the report required under this subdivision shall
34 include updates on (i) the date of the initial contact, (ii) the date the contract
35 was sent to the entity receiving the funds, (iii) the date the disbursing agency
36 received the fully executed contract back from the entity, (iv) the contract
37 execution date, and (v) the payment date.

38 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of G.S. 143C-1-2(b) to the contrary,
39 nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as
40 directed grants shall not revert until two years after this act becomes law, and
41 nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as
42 directed grants shall not revert until June 30, 2026.

43 (5) Directed grants to nonprofit organizations are for nonsectarian, nonreligious
44 purposes only.

45 **SECTION 5.3.(c)** This section expires on June 30, 2026.

46 47 **CAP STATE-FUNDED PORTION OF NONPROFIT SALARIES**

48 **SECTION 5.4.** No more than one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) in State
49 funds, including any interest earnings accruing from those funds, may be used for the annual
50 salary of any individual employee of a nonprofit organization.

51

RECOMMENDATION ON PEN-AND-INK SIGNATURES

SECTION 5.5. The General Statutes Commission shall review all provisions in the General Statutes that require that documents have pen-and-ink signatures. The Commission may recommend a bill for the 2024 Regular Session of the 2023 General Assembly to allow for both pen-and-ink and electronic signatures, where appropriate.

DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY/MITIGATION/RESILIENCY

SECTION 5.6.(a) Recapture of Unused Funds. – The State Controller shall transfer from the following listed agencies to the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund the sum of fifty-three million one hundred seventy thousand five hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$53,170,558) constituting the remaining funds appropriated or allocated in the following enactments of the General Assembly, as amended:

- (1) Forty-five million three hundred thirty thousand five hundred fifty-three dollars (\$45,330,553) from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:
 - a. Section 4.1(10) of S.L. 2016-124.
 - b. Section 1(3) of S.L. 2017-119.
 - c. Funds remaining in the Committee Report as referenced in Section 6.1 of S.L. 2018-136.
 - d. Section 1.3(3) of S.L. 2018-138.
 - e. Section 5.9A(c)(2) of S.L. 2021-180.
- (2) Three million seven hundred thirty-nine thousand seven hundred one dollars (\$3,739,701) from The University of North Carolina System from funds remaining in the Committee Report as referenced in Section 6.1 of S.L. 2018-136.
- (3) Two million one hundred seventy-four thousand three hundred seventy-two dollars (\$2,174,372) from the Department of Health and Human Services from funds remaining in the Committee Report as referenced in Section 6.1 of S.L. 2018-136.
- (4) Seven hundred thousand three hundred fourteen dollars (\$700,314) from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management:
 - a. Section 4.1(2) of S.L. 2016-124.
 - b. Section 5.6(b)(2)d. of S.L. 2018-5.
 - c. Section 2.1(7)b. of S.L. 2019-224.
 - d. Section 1.2(2)a. of S.L. 2019-250.
- (5) Six hundred seventy-three thousand six hundred thirteen dollars (\$673,613) from the Department of Insurance from funds remaining in the Committee Report as referenced in Section 6.1 of S.L. 2018-136.
- (6) Four hundred eighty thousand eight hundred forty-six dollars (\$480,846) from the North Carolina Community College System:
 - a. Section 1(4) of S.L. 2017-119.
 - b. Section 5.3(f) of S.L. 2018-136.
 - c. Funds remaining in the Committee Report as referenced in Section 6.1 of S.L. 2018-136.
 - d. Section 2.1(1) of S.L. 2019-224.
- (7) Sixty-six thousand nine hundred fifty-six dollars (\$66,956) from the Department of Environmental Quality:
 - a. Section 7 of S.L. 2005-1.
 - b. Section 1.3(5) of S.L. 2018-138.
 - c. Section 1.2(9) of S.L. 2019-250.

- 1 (8) Four thousand two hundred three dollars (\$4,203) from the North Carolina
2 Office of Recovery and Resiliency from Section 2.1(4)c. of S.L. 2019-224.

3 **SECTION 5.6.(b)** Section 5.9(a) of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

4 **"SECTION 5.9.(a)** Allocations. – The funds appropriated in Section 2.2(j) of this act for
5 disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and resiliency shall be allocated as follows:

6 ...

- 7 (5) \$25,000,000 to the Office of State Budget and Management for Golden
8 L.E.A.F. (Long-Term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc., a nonprofit
9 corporation, to establish and administer the Small Project Mitigation and
10 Recovery Program (Program) in accordance with this subdivision. The
11 Program shall disburse grants up to ~~two hundred fifty thousand dollars~~
12 ~~(\$250,000)~~ two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to units of local government for
13 flood mitigation and recovery projects. These funds may be used for planning
14 or as matching funds when applicable.

15"

16 **SECTION 5.6.(c)** Previous Allocations Reversion Modification. – Notwithstanding
17 Sections 5.9(b) and 5.9A(e) of S.L. 2021-180, funds allocated in Sections 5.9 and 5.9A of S.L.
18 2021-180, as amended by Section 1.4 of S.L. 2021-189, Section 1.2 of S.L. 2022-6, and Section
19 5.4 of S.L. 2022-74, shall not revert to the Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund but instead shall
20 revert to the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Reserve if they are not expended or
21 encumbered by June 30, 2026.

22 **SECTION 5.6.(d)** Stoney Creek Allocation Transfer. – The State Controller shall
23 transfer the allocation of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) under Section 5.9(a)(23) of S.L.
24 2021-180 for Stoney Creek acquisitions from the North Carolina Office of Recovery and
25 Resiliency to the Department of Environmental Quality for the same purpose.

26 **SECTION 5.6.(e)** Mitigation Buyouts Modification. – The funds allocated to the
27 Department of Public Safety, Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), under Section
28 2.1(4)a. of S.L. 2019-224, as amended, for mitigation buyouts and other various purposes shall
29 be instead used by NCORR for mitigation buyouts, relocations, rehabilitations, reconstructions,
30 and for the purchase of manufactured housing units in order to serve homeowners and
31 communities affected by Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.

32 **SECTION 5.6.(f)** Allocations. – The funds appropriated in Section 2.2(e) of this act
33 for disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and resiliency shall be allocated as follows:

- 34 (1) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to the Department of Public Safety,
35 Division of Emergency Management, for long-term recovery and mitigation
36 grants. The Division of Emergency Management shall combine the Disaster
37 Relief and Mitigation Fund established in subsection 5.9(f) of S.L. 2021-180
38 and the Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Fund established in
39 subsection 5.9(g) of S.L. 2021-180 and use the remaining unencumbered
40 balances of both funds as well as the funds allocated by this subdivision to
41 provide disaster mitigation grants to State agencies, units of local government,
42 and nonprofit organizations as well as for other purposes as set forth in
43 subsections 5.9(f) and 5.9(h) of S.L. 2021-180.
- 44 (2) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to the Department of Public Safety, Division
45 of Emergency Management, for the Local Disaster Shelter Capacity Grant
46 Program in accordance with subsection (g) of this section.
- 47 (3) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to the Department of Public Safety, Division
48 of Emergency Management, to conduct flood studies, risk assessment, and
49 building mitigation strategies through the State Floodplain Mapping Program.
50 Funds will be prioritized to map non-encroachment areas of the State and to

- 1 provide for information sharing through the State's Flood Risk Information
2 System.
- 3 (4) Three million three hundred twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars
4 (\$3,327,500) to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency
5 Management, for detailed mapping and risk impact studies for 250 existing
6 flood gauges to provide baseline information on those gauges for use in the
7 Division's Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network.
- 8 (5) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to the Department of Agriculture and
9 Consumer Services to be used for the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance
10 Program for purposes consistent with Article 6 of Chapter 139 of the General
11 Statutes.
- 12 (6) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to the Department of Environmental
13 Quality, Division of Coastal Management, for the Resilient Coastal
14 Communities Program to provide funding for the implementation or
15 construction of planned, prioritized, and engineered resilience projects in the
16 20 coastal counties of the State. These counties are listed in G.S. 113A-103(2).
- 17 (7) Two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) to the Department of
18 Environmental Quality to provide directed grants to North Carolina Coastal
19 Federation, Inc. (Federation), a nonprofit corporation, for the following
20 purposes:
- 21 a. Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for living shoreline projects
22 sponsored by a unit of local government that is or is in a coastal county
23 and matches for federal or private funds provided to the Federation or
24 a unit of local government for those projects.
- 25 b. Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for (i) the Federation's Lost
26 Fishery Gear Recovery Program, which employs coastal fishermen
27 and other private partners to remove debris from coastal waters, and
28 (ii) the investigation, removal, and disposal of abandoned and derelict
29 vessels in public trust waters of the State located in coastal counties.
30 For purposes of this sub-subdivision, the phrase "abandoned and
31 derelict vessel" has the meaning set forth in subdivision 2.1(10) of S.L.
32 2019-224, as rewritten by Section 4 of S.L. 2020-74. The Federation
33 may use these funds to contract with any federal or State agency or
34 unit of local government or to match federal grant funds.
- 35 (8) One million four hundred eighty-one thousand eight hundred fifty-nine dollars
36 (\$1,481,859) to the Department of Environmental Quality to provide funding
37 for six time-limited positions beginning on January 1, 2024, to continue
38 implementation of the Flood Resiliency Blueprint described in Section 5.9(c)
39 of S.L. 2021-180, as amended. Four hundred ninety-three thousand nine
40 hundred fifty-three dollars (\$493,953) of these funds are allocated for the
41 2023-2024 fiscal year, and the remaining funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
42 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Office of State
43 Human Resources shall allow the Department to post these positions up to 180
44 days prior to their starting date.
- 45 (9) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to the Department of Environmental
46 Quality for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund. These funds will be
47 allocated in equal amounts to each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium and
48 used for the purposes set forth in G.S. 143-215.73M.
- 49 (10) One million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the Wildlife Resources Commission to
50 provide a grant to the Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit corporation, for a pilot
51 project to protect and restore critically important peatlands in eastern North

1 Carolina for the purpose of increasing community flood resilience, improving
2 water quality and wildlife habitat, and reducing wildfire risk.

3 (11) Three hundred forty thousand dollars (\$340,000) to the North Carolina
4 Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
5 (Collaboratory) for the FerryMon program. These funds will be allocated in
6 equal amounts to each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

7 (12) Three hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$320,000) to the Collaboratory for
8 the ModMon program. These funds will be allocated in equal amounts to each
9 year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

10 (13) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the Office of State Budget and
11 Management to provide a grant to the North Carolina Insurance Underwriting
12 Association for the Coastal Resilient Roof Grant Pilot Program, consistent
13 with the purposes set forth in Section 5.9(i) of S.L. 2021-180.

14 **SECTION 5.6.(g)** Local Emergency Shelter Capacity Grant Program. – The
15 Division of Emergency Management shall administer a grant program using funds allocated in
16 subdivision (f)(2) of this section to provide grants to support local communities in upgrading
17 structures identified by the community as an emergency shelter location (i) to meet
18 weather-related structural requirements such as windspeed ratings of roofs and windows and (ii)
19 to upgrade electrical systems of the structure to install emergency generators or provide for quick
20 hookup locations for emergency generators. The program shall prioritize public buildings, but if
21 no public building is suitable for use as an emergency shelter in a particular community, the
22 Division may upon request of a unit of local government consider a grant application for a
23 nonpublic building. The Division shall also in awarding grants consider steps taken by the local
24 government to obtain alternative sources of funding such as insurance policies, private grant
25 funding, or available federal aid programs.

26 **SECTION 5.6.(h)** HFA Funding Reallocation. – Funds allocated to the Housing
27 Finance Agency for a multifamily affordable housing project by Section 5.4(j) of S.L. 2022-74
28 shall instead be used by the Agency to provide a grant to Robeson County for the development
29 of an elderly housing project to support low- and moderate-income senior citizens displaced by
30 natural disaster from the Dunn Road area of Lumberton, North Carolina. To be eligible for
31 funding, a project must have received required zoning approvals by the City of Lumberton prior
32 to November 18, 2021. Funds reallocated by this subsection shall not revert and shall remain
33 available for expenditure until June 30, 2025. This subsection becomes effective June 30, 2023.

34 **SECTION 5.6.(i)** Allocation Reporting Requirements. – The Office of State Budget
35 and Management shall report to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees
36 and to the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly on the implementation of this
37 section on a quarterly basis and shall also provide any additional reports or information requested
38 by the Fiscal Research Division. Each report required by this section shall include information
39 about all funds expended or encumbered pursuant to this section as of the date of the report,
40 regardless of which State agency, federal agency, or non-State entity administers the funds.
41 Non-State entities that administer or receive any funds appropriated in this section shall assist
42 and fully cooperate with the Office of State Budget and Management in meeting the Office's
43 obligations under this section.

44 **SECTION 5.6.(j)** Limitation on Funds. – The Governor may not use the funds
45 described in this section to make budget adjustments under G.S. 143C-6-4 or to make
46 reallocations under G.S. 166A-19.40(c). Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the
47 Governor from exercising the Governor's authority under these statutes with respect to funds
48 other than those described in this section.

49 The Governor shall also ensure that funds allocated in this section are expended in a
50 manner that does not adversely affect any person's or entity's eligibility for federal funds that are
51 made available, or that are anticipated to be made available, as a result of natural disasters. The

1 Governor shall also, to the extent practicable, avoid using State funds to cover costs that will be,
2 or likely will be, covered by federal funds.

3 **SECTION 5.6.(k)** Reversion. – Funds allocated in this section that are not expended
4 or encumbered by June 30, 2028, shall revert to the State Emergency Response and Disaster
5 Relief Reserve.

7 STATE BUDGET ACT/FUNDS CARRYFORWARD

8 **SECTION 5.7.(a)** G.S. 143C-1-1 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 143C-1-1. Purpose and definitions.**

10 ...

11 (d) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

12 (1) Appropriation. – An enactment by the General Assembly authorizing the
13 withdrawal of money from the State treasury. An enactment by the General
14 Assembly that authorizes, specifies, or otherwise provides that funds may be
15 used for a particular purpose is not an appropriation.

16 ...

17 (6a) Carryforward. – The balance of a General Fund operating budget
18 appropriation which would otherwise revert at the close of the fiscal year but
19 instead is made available in the succeeding fiscal year as is specified in law or
20 to liquidate an encumbrance of the prior fiscal year. Funds may not be carried
21 forward for any other purpose.

22 ...

23 (12) Encumbrance. – A financial obligation created by a purchase order, contract,
24 ~~salary commitment~~, unearned or prepaid collections for services provided by
25 the State, or other legally binding agreement.

26"

27 **SECTION 5.7.(b)** Part 1 of Article 6 of Chapter 143C of the General Statutes is
28 amended by adding a new section to read:

29 **"§ 143C-6-4.1. Carryforward of funds.**

30 (a) Unless otherwise specified by law, funds carried forward at the end of the fiscal year
31 may only be spent in the succeeding fiscal year for the purpose for which they were carried
32 forward. Carryforward funds that have not been liquidated in the year in which they were carried
33 forward shall revert at the end of the fiscal year.

34 (b) Unless otherwise specified by law, funds carried forward under this authorization may
35 not be transferred, or otherwise moved, out of the General Fund. This subsection does not apply
36 to The University of North Carolina System.

37 (c) Funds carried forward to support encumbrances are subject to cash availability. If
38 there is insufficient cash to support all allowable carryforward, the Director of the Budget shall
39 prioritize funds specified in law over funds necessary to liquidate an encumbrance."

41 MEDICAL FREEDOM/COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

42 **SECTION 5.8.(a)** Article 10 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by
43 adding a new section to read:

44 **"§ 143-162.6. Discrimination against persons based on refusal of COVID-19 vaccination** 45 **and exemption.**

46 (a) No State agency, city, county, or political subdivision of the State shall deny or refuse
47 employment to any person or discharge any person from employment due to the person's refusal
48 to provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or the person's refusal to submit to a COVID-19
49 vaccination or a series of COVID-19 vaccinations, unless the exemption in subsection (c) of this
50 section applies. This section shall not be construed to prevent the person from being discharged
51 for cause. As used in this section, the term "COVID-19" means the coronavirus disease of 2019.

1 **(b) No State agency, city, county, or political subdivision of the State shall discriminate**
2 **or take any retaliatory action against an employee because the employee in good faith does or**
3 **threatens to file a claim or complaint; initiate any inquiry, investigation, inspection, proceeding,**
4 **or other action; or testify or provide information to any person with respect to the provisions of**
5 **subsection (a) of this section.**

6 **(c) An exemption to subsections (a) and (b) of this section applies to the following:**

- 7 **(1) Any employee, vendor, volunteer, trainee, or student that is required by a**
8 **facility certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to show**
9 **proof of a COVID-19 vaccination, or to submit to a COVID-19 vaccination**
10 **or COVID-19 series of vaccinations.**
- 11 **(2) An employee employed by any entity that receives federal funding if**
12 **complying with subsection (a) or (b) of this section would result in the loss of**
13 **that federal funding.**
- 14 **(3) An employee employed by the Department of Health and Human Services in**
15 **the Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities if the Department requires**
16 **the COVID-19 vaccination or series of vaccinations for that employee."**

17 **SECTION 5.8.(b)** Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is
18 amended by adding a new section to read:

19 **"§ 130A-158.3. COVID-19 vaccination requirement prohibited; exemption.**

20 **(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter or Chapter 166A of the General**
21 **Statutes to the contrary, no State or local public health agency or public health official may**
22 **require any person, including an applicant for employment or an employee, to provide proof of**
23 **a COVID-19 vaccination or to submit to a COVID-19 vaccination or series of COVID-19**
24 **vaccinations unless the exemption in subsection (b) of this section applies. For purposes of this**
25 **section, the following definitions apply:**

- 26 **(1) Applicant for employment. – Any person who seeks to be permitted, required,**
27 **or directed by a State or local public health agency, or any person employed**
28 **by a State or local public health agency, to engage in employment in**
29 **consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit.**
- 30 **(2) COVID-19. – The coronavirus disease of 2019.**
- 31 **(3) Employee. – Any individual employed by a State or local public health**
32 **agency.**
- 33 **(4) State or local public health agency. – Includes the following:**
- 34 **a. The Department or any of its divisions.**
- 35 **b. The Commission for Public Health or any district created by the**
36 **Commission pursuant to subsection (d) of G.S. 130A-29.**
- 37 **c. A local health department as defined in subdivision (5) of**
38 **G.S. 130A-2.**
- 39 **(5) State or local public health official. – Includes the following:**
- 40 **a. The Secretary or a designee.**
- 41 **b. The State Health Director or a designee.**
- 42 **c. The head of any State or local public health agency or a designee.**

43 **(b) An exemption to subsection (a) of this section applies to the following:**

- 44 **(1) Any employee, vendor, volunteer, trainee, or student that is required by a**
45 **facility certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to show**
46 **proof of a COVID-19 vaccination, or to submit to a COVID-19 vaccination**
47 **or COVID-19 series of vaccinations.**
- 48 **(2) An employee employed by any entity that receives federal funding if**
49 **complying with subsection (a) of this section would result in the loss of that**
50 **federal funding.**

- 1 (3) An employee employed by the Department of Health and Human Services in
2 the Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities if the Department requires
3 the COVID-19 vaccination or series of vaccinations for that employee."

4 **SECTION 5.8.(c)** Article 23 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is amended by
5 adding a new section to read:

6 **"§ 153A-461. COVID-19 vaccination requirement prohibited; exemption.**

7 (a) No county may require any person, including an applicant for employment or an
8 employee, to provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or to submit to a COVID-19 vaccination
9 or a series of COVID-19 vaccinations, unless the exemption in subsection (b) of this section
10 applies. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

11 (1) Applicant for employment. – Any person who seeks to be permitted, required,
12 or directed by a county or any person employed by a county to engage in
13 employment in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit.

14 (2) COVID-19. – The coronavirus disease of 2019.

15 (3) Employee. – As defined in G.S. 153A-99(b)(1).

16 (b) An exemption to subsection (a) of this section applies to the following:

17 (1) Any employee, vendor, volunteer, trainee, or student that is required by a
18 facility certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to show
19 proof of a COVID-19 vaccination, or to submit to a COVID-19 vaccination
20 or COVID-19 series of vaccinations.

21 (2) An employee employed by any entity that receives federal funding if
22 complying with subsection (a) of this section would result in the loss of that
23 federal funding.

24 (3) An employee employed by the Department of Health and Human Services in
25 the Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities if the Department requires
26 the COVID-19 vaccination or series of vaccinations for that employee."

27 **SECTION 5.8.(d)** Article 21 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended
28 by adding a new section to read:

29 **"§ 160A-499.6. COVID-19 vaccination; requirement prohibited and exemption.**

30 (a) No city may require any person, including an applicant for employment or an
31 employee, to provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or to submit to a COVID-19 vaccination
32 or a series of COVID-19 vaccinations, unless the exemption in subsection (b) of this section
33 applies. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

34 (1) Applicant for employment. – Any person who seeks to be permitted, required,
35 or directed by a city or any person employed by a city to engage in
36 employment in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit.

37 (2) COVID-19. – The coronavirus disease of 2019.

38 (3) Employee. – As defined in G.S. 160A-169(b)(1).

39 (b) An exemption to subsection (a) of this section applies to the following:

40 (1) Any employee, vendor, volunteer, trainee, or student that is required by a
41 facility certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to show
42 proof of a COVID-19 vaccination, or to submit to a COVID-19 vaccination
43 or COVID-19 series of vaccinations.

44 (2) An employee employed by any entity that receives federal funding if
45 complying with subsection (a) of this section would result in the loss of that
46 federal funding.

47 (3) An employee employed by the Department of Health and Human Services in
48 the Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities if the Department requires
49 the COVID-19 vaccination or series of vaccinations for that employee."

50 **SECTION 5.8.(e)** G.S. 130A-152 reads as rewritten:

51 **"§ 130A-152. Immunization required.**

1 (a) Every child present in this State shall be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus,
2 whooping cough, poliomyelitis, red measles (rubeola) and rubella. In addition, except as
3 provided in subsection (f) of this section, every child present in this State shall be immunized
4 against any other disease upon a determination by the Commission that the immunization is in
5 the interest of the public health. Every parent, guardian, person in loco parentis and person or
6 agency, whether governmental or private, with legal custody of a child shall have the
7 responsibility to ensure that the child has received the required immunization at the age required
8 by the Commission. If a child has not received the required immunizations by the specified age,
9 the responsible person shall obtain the required immunization for the child as soon as possible
10 after the lack of the required immunization is determined.

11 ...

12 (f) Notwithstanding this section or other applicable State law, the Commission for Public
13 Health, public school units, community colleges, constituent institutions of The University of
14 North Carolina, and any private colleges or universities receiving State funds are prohibited from
15 requiring a student to provide proof of vaccination against the coronavirus disease of 2019
16 (COVID-19) or to submit to a COVID-19 vaccination or series of COVID-19 vaccinations unless
17 the requirement for vaccination or proof of vaccination is required for participating in a program
18 of study, or fulfilling education requirements for a program, that requires working, volunteering,
19 or training in a facility certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services."

20 **SECTION 5.8.(f)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2024.

21 **PART VI. COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

22 **HIGH-COST WORKFORCE PROGRAMS START-UP FUNDS**

23
24 **SECTION 6.2.(a)** Establishment of the Fund. – Of the funds appropriated in this act
25 from the General Fund and the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund to the Community Colleges
26 System Office for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the System Office shall establish the Fund for
27 High-Cost Workforce Programs (Fund). Any unexpended funds remaining in the Fund at the end
28 of the fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund but shall remain available for the purposes
29 set forth in this section. The Fund shall be used to assist community colleges in starting new
30 programs in high-demand career fields that require significant start-up funds. Monies shall be
31 allocated from the Fund in each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for high-demand
32 career fields offered at community colleges as follows:

- 33 (1) At least fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) from the ARPA Temporary
34 Savings Fund for programs related to healthcare, including nursing.
- 35 (2) Any remaining funds for Tier 1A and Tier 1B programs.

36 **SECTION 6.2.(b)** Applications. – The System Office shall establish an application
37 process for community colleges to apply for awards from the Fund no later than the beginning of
38 each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. To be eligible to receive funds, colleges shall
39 submit to the System Office a completed application, which shall include at least the following
40 information:

- 41 (1) A description of the proposed new program requiring start-up funds.
- 42 (2) Documentation of industry demand for the program or documentation of
43 future local, regional, or statewide employment needs that will be met by the
44 program.
- 45 (3) Total cash cost to start the program and maintain the program over two fiscal
46 years.
- 47 (4) A plan for the fiscal sustainability of the new program.

48 **SECTION 6.2.(c)** Limitation on the Use of Funds. – A community college may only
49 apply for the award of funds to support one new program in each fiscal year. Funds shall remain
50

1 available to the community college for a period of two fiscal years. The award of funds to a
2 community college from the Fund shall not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

3 **SECTION 6.2.(d) Matching Funds.** – Except for programs related to healthcare that
4 are funded from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection
5 (a) of this section, the community college shall be required to match a percentage of the total
6 cash cost of the program with non-State funds based on a college's total full-time equivalents
7 (FTE) according to the following:

- 8 (1) Community colleges with a total FTE greater than 6,500 shall be required to
9 match fifteen percent (15%) of the cost.
- 10 (2) Community colleges with a total FTE between 2,500 and 6,500 shall be
11 required to match ten percent (10%) of the cost.
- 12 (3) Community colleges with a total FTE below 2,500 shall be required to match
13 five percent (5%) of the cost.

14 **SECTION 6.2.(e) Administration.** – The System Office may adopt any regulations,
15 policies, or procedures regarding the application process, use of funds, eligibility requirements,
16 and any other rules necessary related to the administration of the Fund. The System Office may
17 use up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal year for administrative costs for
18 establishing and implementing the program.

19 **SECTION 6.2.(f) Report.** – The System Office shall submit an initial report to the
20 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 1, 2024, and an annual report
21 thereafter for each year the System Office provides funds to community colleges from the Fund
22 on the programs receiving the funds, which shall include at least the following information:

- 23 (1) The community colleges that received funds, the amount of funds, and the
24 types of programs started.
- 25 (2) The use of funds by community colleges receiving awards, including costs
26 associated with student instruction, faculty salaries, instructional supplies,
27 related instructional equipment, and accreditation costs.
- 28 (3) Evaluation of the success of the new community college programs receiving
29 funds.

30 31 **NC COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHORT-TERM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** 32 **GRANTS**

33 **SECTION 6.5.** Article 1 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by
34 adding a new section to read:

35 **"§ 115D-5.1A. Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program.**

36 (a) Program Established. – There is established the North Carolina Community College
37 Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program (Program) to be administered by the State
38 Board of Community Colleges. The State Board shall adopt rules for the disbursement of the
39 grants pursuant to this section.

40 (b) Programs of Study. – The State Board of Community Colleges, in collaboration with
41 the Department of Commerce, shall determine the eligible programs of study for the Program,
42 according to the occupations that are in the highest demand in the State. The eligible programs
43 of study shall include programs such as architecture and construction, health sciences,
44 information technology, electrical line worker, and manufacturing programs and may include
45 other programs to meet local workforce needs.

46 (c) Award Amounts. – To the extent funds are made available for the Program, the State
47 Board of Community Colleges shall award grants in an amount of up to seven hundred fifty
48 dollars (\$750.00) to students pursuing short-term, noncredit State and industry workforce
49 credentials. The State Board of Community Colleges shall establish criteria for initial and
50 continuing eligibility for students. At a minimum, students shall be required to qualify as a
51 resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in G.S. 116-143.1 and in accordance with

1 the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the State
2 Education Assistance Authority.

3 (d) Report. – The State Board shall submit a report by April 1, 2024, and annually
4 thereafter, on the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal
5 Research Division. The report shall contain, for each academic year and by programs of study,
6 the amount of grant funds disbursed and the number of eligible students receiving funds."
7

8 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAMS SERVING IDD STUDENTS**

9 **SECTION 6.9.(a)** Article 3 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by
10 adding a new section to read:

11 **"§ 115D-44. Training programs for students with intellectual and developmental**
12 **disabilities.**

13 (a) The State Board of Community Colleges shall establish a community college training
14 program for up to 15 community colleges. The program shall provide opportunities for
15 micro-credentials or other credentials that lead to increased employment outcomes for
16 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). To the extent funds are
17 appropriated for this purpose, the program shall improve the ability of participating community
18 colleges to offer training and educational components that include improving employability skills
19 and providing on-the-job training and apprenticeships with business and industry for individuals
20 with IDD. The goal of the program shall be to inform community colleges and address
21 cross-departmental supports within the individual community colleges on programs for
22 individuals with IDD related to at least the following:

- 23 (1) Establishing best practices for providing vocational training for individuals
24 with IDD.
- 25 (2) Providing financial and benefits counseling.
- 26 (3) Developing strategies on integrating assistive technology.
- 27 (4) Maximizing access, with supports, to credential and degree programs,
28 including micro-credentials that are established by the State Board.
- 29 (5) Identifying methods to increase orientation and integration of individuals with
30 IDD into the college community to the greatest extent possible.
- 31 (6) Determining a needs assessment, marketing, and evaluation to serve a broad
32 array of individuals with developmental and other similar disabilities or
33 learning challenges to assure adequate demand for new or existing programs.

34 (b) No later than May 1 of each year, the Community Colleges System Office shall report
35 on the funds appropriated to the System Office for the purposes of this section to the Joint
36 Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division. At a minimum,
37 the report shall address the impact of the program, the use of any additional positions created at
38 community colleges, professional development training for staff, and funding sources identified
39 for individuals with IDD to build programs at community colleges that support postsecondary
40 trainings and certifications that enable individuals with IDD to engage in competitive, sustainable
41 employment."

42 **SECTION 6.9.(b)** Of the recurring funds appropriated in this act to the Community
43 Colleges System Office for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to support increasing program
44 offerings for individuals with IDD pursuant to G.S. 115D-44, as enacted by this section, the
45 System Office shall establish at least two statewide positions for program support, provide
46 professional development training for college advising staff to assist students with IDD for career
47 pathway exploration and the identification of credentials leading to competitive employment, and
48 explore funding sources to sustain programs for students with IDD.

49 **CAREER ACADEMIES FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS**

50

1 **SECTION 6.9.(a)** Program Established. – There is established a program for the
 2 2023-2025 fiscal biennium between Cape Fear Community College (CFCC), New Hanover
 3 County Schools, and Pender County Schools to meet the needs of underserved students in seventh
 4 through ninth grade through an opportunity for extended time on CFCC's campus in various
 5 career and technical education programs. The goals of the program shall include (i) exposing
 6 students from underperforming schools and underserved populations to career training
 7 opportunities available at CFCC, (ii) guiding students toward successful career outcomes, (iii)
 8 providing support services to students, including academic tutoring, academic counseling,
 9 personal mentoring, and financial support through financial aid and scholarships, and (iv)
 10 increasing graduation and postsecondary outcomes for these students.

11 **SECTION 6.9.(b)** Components of the Program. – CFCC, New Hanover County
 12 Schools, and Pender County Schools shall offer a summer career academy program to at-risk
 13 students from each local school administrative unit for a total of up to 300 students in seventh
 14 through ninth grade. The career academy program shall introduce students to life on a college
 15 campus with the goal of creating a familiarity with and positive experience in the postsecondary
 16 environment. Students shall visit two career and technical education programs per day for five
 17 consecutive days for two consecutive weeks in different subject areas, such as welding, marine
 18 technology and boat building, electrical, culinary, medical assisting, public safety, arts,
 19 veterinary assisting, and chemical technology. The career academy program shall include
 20 speakers and support for financial aid and scholarship opportunities and an introduction to the
 21 Career and College Promise Program.

22 CFCC shall also hire career liaisons in time-limited positions for placement in certain
 23 middle schools in New Hanover County Schools and Pender County Schools to support at-risk
 24 students. The goal of adding career liaisons to the schools shall be to provide students with
 25 exposure to career and technical education opportunities that otherwise would not be available
 26 to them.

27 **SECTION 6.9.(c)** Report. – CFCC, in collaboration with New Hanover County
 28 Schools and Pender County Schools, shall submit an initial report by October 1, 2024, and
 29 annually thereafter while funds are expended under the program, to the Joint Legislative
 30 Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the results of the pilot
 31 program and the placement of the career liaisons in schools to support at-risk students, including
 32 the number of students who enrolled in Career and College Promise Program pathways following
 33 completion of the career academy program and other relevant student outcome data for at-risk
 34 students.

35 **SECTION 6.9.(d)** Carryforward. – The nonrecurring funds appropriated to the
 36 Community Colleges System Office in this act for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for the program
 37 shall not revert at the end of each fiscal year but shall remain available until expended.
 38

39 **REQUIRE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY**
 40 **COLLEGES SYSTEM BE CONFIRMED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAKE**
 41 **CHANGES TO THE APPROVAL PROCESS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
 42 **PRESIDENTS, PROHIBIT COMMUNITY COLLEGES FROM OFFERING**
 43 **COURSES OF INSTRUCTION USING STATE FUNDS WITHOUT PRIOR**
 44 **APPROVAL BY THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND MAKE**
 45 **CHANGES TO THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND LOCAL**
 46 **BOARDS OF TRUSTEES**

47 **SECTION 6.10.(a)** G.S. 115D-3 reads as rewritten:

48 "**§ 115D-3. Community Colleges System Office; staff; reorganization authority.**

49 ...

50 (a1) ~~The~~ Subject to confirmation by the General Assembly in accordance with
 51 G.S. 115D-3.1, the State Board shall elect a President of the North Carolina ~~System of~~

1 Community Colleges System who shall serve as chief administrative officer of the Community
2 Colleges System Office. The State Board shall use the following process to elect a President:

3 (1) At least three final candidates shall be submitted to the full State Board from
4 which the full State Board shall make its election.

5 (2) The State Board shall conduct a vote on the election of the President, and the
6 candidate who receives a majority of votes of the entire State Board shall be
7 elected President.

8 (a2) The compensation of this position shall be fixed by the State Board from funds
9 provided by the General Assembly in the Current Operations Appropriations Act.

10 (a3) The President shall be assisted by such professional staff members as may be deemed
11 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Chapter, who shall be elected by the State Board on
12 nomination of the President. The compensation of the staff members elected by the Board shall
13 be fixed by the State Board of Community Colleges, upon recommendation of the President of
14 the Community ~~College~~ Colleges System, from funds provided in the Current Operations
15 Appropriations Act. These staff members shall include such officers as may be deemed desirable
16 by the President and State Board. Provision shall be made for persons of high competence and
17 strong professional experience in such areas as academic affairs, public service programs,
18 business and financial affairs, institutional studies and long-range planning, student affairs,
19 research, legal affairs, health affairs and institutional development, and for State and federal
20 programs administered by the State Board. In addition, the President shall be assisted by such
21 other employees as may be needed to carry out the provisions of this Chapter, who shall be
22 subject to the provisions of Chapter 126 of the General Statutes. The staff complement shall be
23 established by the State Board on recommendation of the President to insure that there are
24 persons on the staff who have the professional competence and experience to carry out the duties
25 assigned and to insure that there are persons on the staff who are familiar with the problems and
26 capabilities of all of the principal types of institutions represented in the system. ~~The State Board~~
27 ~~of Community Colleges shall have all other powers, duties, and responsibilities delegated to the~~
28 ~~State Board of Education affecting the Community Colleges System Office not otherwise stated~~
29 ~~in this Chapter.~~

30"

31 **SECTION 6.10.(b)** Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
32 new section to read:

33 **"§ 115D-3.1. General Assembly confirmation of the President.**

34 (a) The State Board shall submit the name of the person elected as President for
35 confirmation to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
36 General Assembly on or before the fifteenth day following the election. The General Assembly
37 shall adopt a joint resolution to either (i) confirm or (ii) deny confirmation, subject to the
38 following:

39 (1) The person elected by the State Board shall not serve as President but may
40 serve as interim-President until the General Assembly adopts a joint
41 resolution.

42 (2) If the General Assembly fails to adopt a joint resolution confirming the person
43 by the date that either chamber reaches the thirtieth legislative day following
44 the receipt of the name by the presiding officers, it shall be deemed that the
45 General Assembly has denied confirmation.

46 (b) A person denied confirmation shall not serve as President or interim-President."

47 **SECTION 6.10.(c)** Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
48 new section to read:

49 **"§ 115D-6.1. College president contracts and approval.**

1 (a) The State Board shall develop mandatory contract terms that boards of trustees of
 2 community colleges shall use when electing a president or chief administrative officer pursuant
 3 to G.S. 115D-20. The contract terms shall include the following:

4 (1) A contract term of between one and four years.

5 (2) A requirement that the contract or contract renewal is unenforceable unless it
 6 is approved by the State Board.

7 (3) A list of causes for dismissal and termination of the contract.

8 (4) A prohibition on additional financial compensation to the president or chief
 9 administrative officer when dismissed for causes included in the contracts.

10 (5) Any other provisions deemed necessary by the State Board.

11 (b) Each local board of trustees shall submit the name of the person elected as president
 12 or chief administrative officer of the institution under G.S. 115D-20(1) to the State Board for
 13 approval. The local board shall submit any information requested by the State Board about the
 14 person's qualifications. A person denied approval shall not serve as president of the institution."

15 **SECTION 6.10.(d)** Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
 16 new section to read:

17 **"§ 115D-10. Limitation on judicial review of State Board actions.**

18 State Board actions affecting a local board of trustees or a person elected as a president or
 19 chief administrative officer of an institution under any of the following statutes are not subject to
 20 judicial review:

21 (1) G.S. 115D-6.

22 (2) G.S. 115D-6.1.

23 (3) G.S. 115D-6.5.

24 (4) G.S. 115D-19."

25 **SECTION 6.10.(e)** G.S. 115D-20 reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 115D-20. Powers and duties of trustees.**

27 The trustees of each institution shall constitute the local administrative board of such
 28 institution, with such powers and duties as are provided in this Chapter and as are delegated to it
 29 by the State Board of Community Colleges. The powers and duties of trustees shall include the
 30 following:

31 (1) To elect a president or chief administrative officer of the institution ~~for such~~
 32 ~~term and under such conditions as the trustees may fix.~~ in accordance with
 33 G.S. 115D-6.1. If the board of trustees chooses to use a search consultant to
 34 assist with the election process, the board of trustees shall select the search
 35 consultant through a competitive request for proposals process. A search
 36 consultant selected pursuant to this subdivision who is collecting a fee for the
 37 consultant's services shall not be (i) an employee of a State agency,
 38 department, or institution, an appointed member of a State commission or
 39 board, or an elected official whose responsibilities include oversight or
 40 budgetary aspects of the Community ~~College~~ Colleges System, (ii) a lobbyist
 41 or lobbyist principal as defined in G.S. 120C-100, or (iii) a State-level
 42 community college board of trustees association or organization. A contract
 43 with a search consultant pursuant to this subdivision shall not be subject to
 44 Article 3C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. The election and reelection
 45 of a president or chief administrative officer shall be subject to the approval
 46 of the State Board of Community Colleges. No person shall serve as a
 47 president or chief administrative officer until and unless he or she is approved
 48 by the State Board of Community Colleges as provided in G.S. 115D-6.1.

49 "

50 **SECTION 6.10.(f)** G.S. 115D-5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 "(b3) No course of instruction shall be offered by any community college at State expense
2 or partial State expense without the approval of the State Board of Community Colleges."

3 **SECTION 6.10.(g)** G.S. 115D-2.2 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 115D-2.2. State Board of Community Colleges.**

5 (a) The State Board of Community Colleges is established.

6 (b) The State Board of Community Colleges shall consist of ~~22~~21 members, as follows:

7 (1) The Lieutenant Governor or the Lieutenant Governor's designee shall be a
8 member ex officio.

9 (2) The Treasurer of North Carolina or the Treasurer's designee shall be a member
10 ex officio.

11 (3) The Commissioner of Labor or the Commissioner's designee shall be a
12 member ex officio.

13 ~~(4) The Governor shall appoint to the State Board four members from the State at
14 large and one member from each of the six Trustee Association Regions
15 defined in G.S. 115D-62. Each appointment by the Governor shall be for a
16 term of four years and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. Any
17 vacancy occurring among the Governor's appointees before the expiration of
18 term shall be filled by appointment of the Governor. The member appointed
19 to fill a vacancy shall meet the same residential qualification, if any, as the
20 vacating member and shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of
21 that member.~~

22 (5) The General Assembly shall elect ~~eight~~18 members of the State Board from
23 the State at large to a term of four years beginning July 1 of an odd-numbered
24 year and until a successor is elected and qualifies. The Senate shall elect ~~four~~nine
25 members and the House of Representatives shall elect ~~four~~nine members
26 in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

27 ~~(6) The person serving as president of the North Carolina Comprehensive
28 Community College Student Government Association shall be an ex officio
29 member of the State Board. If the president of the Association is unable for
30 any reason to serve as the student member of the State Board, then pursuant
31 to the constitution of the Association, the vice president of the Association
32 shall serve as the student member of the State Board. Any person serving as
33 the student member of the State Board must be a student in good standing at
34 a North Carolina community college. The student member of the State Board
35 shall have all the rights and privileges of membership, except that the student
36 member shall not have a vote.~~

37 ...

38 (h) At its first meeting after July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the State Board shall elect
39 from its membership a ~~chair~~chair, ~~vice-chair~~, and such other officers as it may deem necessary.

40 (i) The State Board of Community Colleges shall meet at stated times established by the
41 State Board, but not less frequently than ~~10~~eight times a year. The State Board of Community
42 Colleges shall also meet with the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of The
43 University of North Carolina at least once a year to discuss educational matters of mutual interest
44 and to recommend to the General Assembly such policies as are appropriate to encourage the
45 improvement of public education at every level in this State; these joint meetings shall be hosted
46 by the three Boards according to the schedule set out in G.S. 115C-11(b1). Special meetings of
47 the State Board may be set at any regular meeting or may be called by the chair. A majority of
48 the qualified members of the State Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

49 "

50 **SECTION 6.10.(h)** G.S. 115D-2.2, as amended by this section, reads as rewritten:

51 "**§ 115D-2.2. State Board of Community Colleges.**

1 ...
2 (b) ~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall consist of 21 members, as follows: 18~~
3 ~~members elected by the General Assembly from the State at large to a term of four years~~
4 ~~beginning July 1 of an odd-numbered year until a successor is elected and qualified. The Senate~~
5 ~~shall elect nine members and the House of Representatives shall elect nine members in~~
6 ~~accordance with subsection (c) of this section.~~

7 (1) ~~The Lieutenant Governor or the Lieutenant Governor's designee shall be a~~
8 ~~member ex officio.~~

9 (2) ~~The Treasurer of North Carolina or the Treasurer's designee shall be a member~~
10 ~~ex officio.~~

11 (3) ~~The Commissioner of Labor or the Commissioner's designee shall be a~~
12 ~~member ex officio.~~

13 (5) ~~The General Assembly shall elect 18 members of the State Board from the~~
14 ~~State at large to a term of four years beginning July 1 of an odd-numbered year~~
15 ~~and until a successor is elected and qualifies. The Senate shall elect nine~~
16 ~~members and the House of Representatives shall elect nine members in~~
17 ~~accordance with subsection (c) of this section.~~

18 (c) At each session of the General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year, the Senate
19 and the House of Representatives shall elect from a slate of candidates made in each chamber.
20 The slate shall be prepared as provided by resolution in each chamber. If a sufficient number of
21 nominees who are legally qualified are submitted, then the slate of candidates shall list at least
22 twice the number of candidates for the total seats open. All qualified candidates shall compete
23 against all other qualified candidates. All candidates shall submit a statement of economic interest
24 to the State Ethics Commission for review under G.S. 138A-24.

25 (d) ~~When a vacancy occurs among the members elected by the two chambers of the~~
26 ~~General Assembly, occurs, the chair of the State Board shall inform~~ the chamber that originally
27 elected the vacating ~~member~~ member. ~~The chamber shall elect a person to fill the vacancy in the~~
28 same manner as required for election under subsection (c) of this section when the General
29 Assembly next convenes. The election shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.

30 ...
31 (j) ~~Whenever any vacancy shall occur in the appointed or elected membership of the~~
32 ~~State Board, the chair shall inform the appropriate appointing or electing authority of the vacancy.~~

33 (k) The State Board of Community Colleges may declare vacant the office of an
34 appointed or elected member who does not attend three consecutive scheduled meetings without
35 justifiable excuse. The chair of the State Board shall notify the ~~appropriate appointing or electing~~
36 ~~authority~~ chamber that elected the member of any vacancy."

37 **SECTION 6.10.(i)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-2.2, as amended by this section, the
38 current members serving on the State Board as of the effective date of this section shall serve the
39 remainder of their terms.

40 **SECTION 6.10.(j)** When the State Board of Community Colleges elects a chair in
41 accordance with G.S. 115D-2.2(h) in 2023, the chair shall be elected from the members elected
42 by the Senate. When the State Board of Community Colleges elects a chair in accordance with
43 G.S. 115D-2.2(h) in 2025, the chair shall be elected from the members elected by the House of
44 Representatives.

45 **SECTION 6.10.(k)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-2.2, as amended by this section, the
46 following shall be the terms of office for members elected to terms beginning July 1, 2023:

47 (1) The House of Representatives shall elect two members to two-year terms.

48 (2) The Senate shall elect three members to two-year terms.

49 **SECTION 6.10.(l)** For elections to terms beginning July 1, 2025, and every four
50 years thereafter, the following applies:

51 (1) The House of Representatives shall elect five members to four-year terms.

(2) The Senate shall elect five members to four-year terms.

SECTION 6.10.(m) For elections to terms beginning July 1, 2027, and every four years thereafter, the following applies:

(1) The House of Representatives shall elect four members to four-year terms.

(2) The Senate shall elect four members to four-year terms.

SECTION 6.10.(n) G.S. 115D-62 is repealed.

SECTION 6.10.(o) G.S. 115D-79 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115D-79. Open meetings.

All official meetings of the State Board of Community Colleges and of local boards of trustees shall be open to the public in accordance with the provisions of ~~G.S. 143-318.1 through 143-318.7.~~G.S. 143-318.9."

SECTION 6.10.(p) G.S. 115D-12 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115D-12. Each institution to have board of trustees; selection of trustees.

(a) Each community college established or operated pursuant to this Chapter shall be governed by a board of trustees ~~consisting of 13 members, or of additional members if selected according to the special procedure prescribed by the third paragraph of this subsection, who shall be selected by the following agencies. No member of the General Assembly may be appointed to a local board of trustees for a community college.~~composed as follows:

(1) Eight trustees appointed by the General Assembly under G.S. 120-121. The General Assembly shall appoint two members annually. One member shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one member shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(2) Four trustees elected by the board of commissioners of the county in which the main campus of the institution is located, one of whom may be a county commissioner. In addition, each board of commissioners of any other county in the administrative area that provides plant funds to the institution shall elect two additional trustees to the board, one of whom may be a county commissioner.

(3) The president of the student government or the chair of the executive board of the student body of each community college may be an ex officio nonvoting member if the board of trustees of the community college agrees.

(a1) No member of the General Assembly shall be a trustee of a local board of trustees.

~~Group One—four trustees, elected by the board of education of the public school administrative unit located in the administrative area of the institution. If there are two or more public school administrative units, whether city or county units, or both, located within the administrative area, the trustees shall be elected jointly by all of the boards of education of those units, each board having one vote in the election of each trustee, except as provided in G.S. 115D-59. No board of education shall elect a member of the board of education or any person employed by the board of education to serve as a trustee, however, any such person currently serving on a board of trustees shall be permitted to fulfill the unexpired portion of the trustee's current term.~~

~~Group Two—four trustees, elected by the board of commissioners of the county in which the institution is located. Provided, however, if the administrative area of the institution is composed of two or more counties, the trustees shall be elected jointly by the boards of commissioners of all those counties, each board having one vote in the election of each trustee. Provided, also, the county commissioners of the county in which the community college has established a satellite campus may elect an additional two members if the board of trustees of the community college agrees. No more than one trustee from Group Two may be a member of a board of county commissioners. Should the boards of education or the boards of commissioners involved be unable to agree on one or more trustees the senior resident superior court judge in the superior~~

1 court district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1 where the institution is located shall
2 fill the position or positions by appointment.

3 ~~Group Three—four trustees, appointed by the Governor.~~

4 ~~Group Four—the president of the student government or the chairman of the executive board~~
5 ~~of the student body of each community college established pursuant to this Chapter shall be an~~
6 ~~ex officio nonvoting member of the board of trustees of each said institution.~~

7 (b) All trustees shall be residents of the administrative area of the institution for which
8 they are selected or of counties contiguous thereto with the exception of members provided for
9 in subsection (a) of this section, ~~Group Four~~ to the administrative area.

10 (b1) No person who has been employed full time by the community college within the
11 prior 5 years and no spouse or child of a person currently employed full time by the community
12 college shall serve on the board of trustees of that college.

13 (c) Vacancies occurring in a seat appointed by the General Assembly shall be filled as
14 provided in G.S. 120-122. ~~Vacancies occurring in any group for whatever reason a seat elected~~
15 ~~by a board of county commissioners shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by~~
16 ~~the agency or agencies authorized to select trustees of that group and in the manner in which~~
17 ~~regular selections are made. Should the selection of a trustee not be made by the agency or~~
18 ~~agencies having the authority to do so within 60 days after the date on which a vacancy occurs,~~
19 ~~whether by creation or expiration of a term or for any other reason, the Governor shall fill the~~
20 ~~vacancy by appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term."~~

21 **SECTION 6.10.(q)** G.S. 115D-13 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 115D-13. Terms of office of trustees.**

23 (a) The regular terms of trustees appointed in 1981 and trustees appointed in 1987 shall
24 be extended for one year. The term of one or more trustees, as appropriate, elected pursuant to
25 G.S. 115D-12 may be extended for one year so that these terms will be staggered, unless they are
26 already staggered.

27 (b) Except for the one year extensions of terms set forth in subsection (a) of this section,
28 and for the ex officio member, as the terms of trustees currently in office expire, their successors
29 shall be appointed for four-year terms.

30 (c) All terms shall commence on July 1 of the year.

31 (d) Each local board of trustees shall submit the following to the Legislative Library of
32 the General Assembly by August 1 annually:

33 (1) The name and address of each trustee.

34 (2) The county of residence of each trustee.

35 (3) The appointing or electing entity of each trustee.

36 (4) If a trustee is filling a vacancy, the name of the trustee replaced.

37 (5) The date each trustee's term begins.

38 (6) The date each trustee's term ends."

39 **SECTION 6.10.(r)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-12, as amended by this section, the
40 current members serving on a board of trustees of a community college as of the effective date
41 of this section shall serve the remainder of their terms. Thereafter, as terms expire, the members
42 shall be appointed or elected in accordance with G.S. 115D-12, as amended by this section. When
43 a vacancy occurs in a seat that was elected by a local board of education or appointed by the
44 Governor, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in G.S. 120-122 and as follows:

45 (1) If the vacancy occurs in a term expiring in an odd-numbered year, and the
46 General Assembly is not in a regular or extra session at the time of the
47 vacancy, the Governor shall consult with the Speaker of the House of
48 Representatives before making the appointment as required by G.S. 120-122.

49 (2) If the vacancy occurs in a term expiring in an even-numbered year, and the
50 General Assembly is not in a regular or extra session at the time of the

1 vacancy, the Governor shall consult with the President Pro Tempore of the
2 Senate before making the appointment as required by G.S. 120-122.

- 3 (3) Notwithstanding G.S. 120-122, after receiving the written recommendation
4 for the appointment to fill the vacancy, the Governor shall appoint the person
5 recommended within 30 days and shall not reject the recommendation. Upon
6 the expiration of the term, the seat shall be filled in accordance with
7 G.S. 115D-12, as amended by this section.

8 **SECTION 6.10.(s)** The following are repealed:

- 9 (1) S.L. 1997-12.
10 (2) Section 2 of S.L. 1999-60.
11 (3) Section 2 of S.L. 2011-175.
12 (4) S.L. 2014-73.
13 (5) S.L. 2015-12.
14 (6) Section 1 of S.L. 2015-167.
15 (7) S.L. 2015-243.
16 (8) Section 2 of S.L. 2015-252.
17 (9) S.L. 2018-15.
18 (10) S.L. 2020-20.
19 (11) Section 1 of S.L. 2021-52.
20 (12) Section 5 of S.L. 2021-102.
21 (13) S.L. 2022-10.

22 **SECTION 6.10.(t)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-12(a)(2), as amended by this
23 section, for the Mayland Community College Board of Trustees, the Avery County Board of
24 Commissioners, Mitchell County Board of Commissioners, and Yancey County Board of
25 Commissioners shall each elect two trustees. Each board of commissioners may elect up to one
26 commissioner as a trustee.

27 **SECTION 6.10.(u)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-12(a)(2), as amended by this
28 section, for the South Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees, the Union County Board
29 of Commissioners shall elect three trustees, one of whom may be a county commissioner, and
30 the Anson County Board of Commissioners shall elect two trustees, one of whom may be a
31 county commissioner.

32 **SECTION 6.10.(v)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-12(a)(2), as amended by this
33 section, for the Vance-Granville Community College Board of Trustees, the following shall be
34 the trustees elected by the boards of county commissioners in the administrative area of the
35 institution:

- 36 (1) Four trustees elected by the Vance County Board of Commissioners, one of
37 whom may be a county commissioner.
38 (2) Three trustees elected by the Granville County Board of Commissioners, one
39 of whom may be a county commissioner.
40 (3) Two trustees elected by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, one of
41 whom may be a county commissioner.
42 (4) One trustee elected by the Warren County Board of Commissioners, who may
43 be a county commissioner.

44 **SECTION 6.10.(w)** G.S. 115D-6.1, as enacted by this section, applies to contracts
45 entered into or renewed on or after the date this act becomes law. Subsection (h) of this section
46 becomes effective July 1, 2027. The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.
47
48

49 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PILOT PROGRAM

50 **SECTION 6.11.(a)** Program; Purpose. – The State Board of Community Colleges
51 shall establish the Vocational Rehabilitation Pilot Program (Program) for the 2023-2024 to

1 2025-2026 academic years. The purpose of the Program is to provide support services to
2 community college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to help the students
3 reach their goals for employment and independence without duplicating the existing vocational
4 support network.

5 **SECTION 6.11.(b)** Use of Funds; Selection. – Community colleges may apply to
6 the State Board of Community Colleges to participate in the Program. The State Board, in
7 consultation with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Health
8 and Human Services (DVR), shall select community colleges to participate in the Program. As
9 part of the Program, the Community Colleges System Office shall contract with DVR to place
10 student counselors at selected community colleges in the State. Funds provided for this purpose
11 may be used to meet any applicable federal matching requirements for student counselors and
12 for costs related to administration of the Program.

13 **SECTION 6.11.(c)** Report. – No later than March 15, 2024, and each year thereafter
14 in which funds are expended during the Program, the State Board of Community Colleges, in
15 consultation with DVR, shall report on the impact of the Program on participants, including at
16 least the following information:

17 (1) The mental health and well-being of participants.

18 (2) Job placements of participants.

19 **SECTION 6.11.(d)** Funds. – The nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act to the
20 Community Colleges System Office for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the Program shall not revert
21 at the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year but shall remain available until the end of the 2025-2026
22 fiscal year.

23 24 **PART VII. PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

25 26 **CODIFY FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

27 **SECTION 7.1.** Part 1F of Article 9 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is
28 amended by adding a new section to read:

29 **"§ 115C-111.05. Funding for children with disabilities.**

30 To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the State Board shall allocate funds for
31 children with disabilities to each local school administrative unit on a per child basis. Each local
32 school administrative unit shall receive funds for the lesser of (i) all children who are identified
33 as children with disabilities or (ii) thirteen percent (13%) of its allocated average daily
34 membership in the local school administrative unit for the current school year."

35 36 **CODIFY FUNDING FOR ACADEMICALLY OR INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED** 37 **STUDENTS**

38 **SECTION 7.2.(a)** Article 9B of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended
39 by adding a new section to read:

40 **"§ 115C-150.9. Funding for academically or intellectually gifted students.**

41 To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the State Board shall allocate funds
42 for academically or intellectually gifted children on a per child basis. A local school
43 administrative unit shall receive funds for a maximum of four percent (4%) of its allocated
44 average daily membership for the current school year, regardless of the number of children
45 identified as academically or intellectually gifted in the unit."

46 **SECTION 7.2.(b)** Prior to determining the allocation of funds for the 2024-2025
47 school year, the Department of Public Instruction shall develop a uniform definition for
48 "academically or intellectually gifted" to determine which students are to be considered for
49 funding pursuant to G.S. 115C-150.9, as enacted by this section.

50 51 **CODIFY BOILERPLATE**

- 1 (7) County-adjusted property tax base per square mile. – The county-adjusted
2 property tax base divided by the number of square miles of land area in the
3 county.
- 4 (8) County wealth as a percentage of State average wealth. – Computed as
5 follows:
- 6 a. Compute the percentage that the county per capita income is of the
7 State per capita income and weight the resulting percentage by a factor
8 of five-tenths.
- 9 b. Compute the percentage that the anticipated total county revenue
10 availability per student is of the anticipated State average revenue
11 availability per student and weight the resulting percentage by a factor
12 of four-tenths.
- 13 c. Compute the percentage that the county-adjusted property tax base per
14 square mile is of the State-adjusted property tax base per square mile
15 and weight the resulting percentage by a factor of one-tenth.
- 16 d. Add the three weighted percentages to derive the county wealth as a
17 percentage of the State average wealth.
- 18 (9) Effective county tax rate. – The actual county tax rate multiplied by a weighted
19 average of the three most recent annual sales assessment ratio studies.
- 20 (10) Effective State average tax rate. – The average of effective county tax rates
21 for all counties.
- 22 (11) Local current expense funds. – The most recent county current expense
23 appropriations to public schools, as reported by local boards of education in
24 the audit report filed with the Secretary of the Local Government Commission
25 pursuant to G.S. 115C-447.
- 26 (12) Per capita income. – The average for the most recent three years for which
27 data are available of the per capita income according to the most recent report
28 of the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis,
29 including any reported modifications for prior years as outlined in the most
30 recent report.
- 31 (13) Sales assessment ratio studies. – Sales assessment ratio studies performed by
32 the Department of Revenue under G.S. 105-289(h).
- 33 (14) State average adjusted property tax base per square mile. – The sum of the
34 county-adjusted property tax bases for all counties divided by the number of
35 square miles of land area in the State.
- 36 (15) State average current expense appropriations per student. – The most recent
37 State total of county current expense appropriations to public schools, as
38 reported by local boards of education in the audit report filed with the
39 Secretary of the Local Government Commission pursuant to G.S. 115C-447.
- 40 (16) Supplant. – To decrease local per student current expense appropriations from
41 one fiscal year to the next fiscal year.
- 42 (17) Weighted average of the three most recent annual sales assessment ratio
43 studies. – The weighted average of the three most recent annual sales
44 assessment ratio studies in the most recent years for which county current
45 expense appropriations and adjusted property tax valuations are available. If
46 real property in a county has been revalued one year prior to the most recent
47 sales assessment ratio study, a weighted average of the two most recent sales
48 assessment ratios shall be used. If property has been revalued the year of the
49 most recent sales assessment ratio study, the sales assessment ratio for the year
50 of revaluation shall be used.

1 (c) Eligibility for Funds. – Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, the State
2 Board of Education shall allocate these funds to local school administrative units located in whole
3 or in part in counties in which the county wealth as a percentage of the State average wealth is
4 less than one hundred percent (100%).

5 (d) Allocation of Funds. – Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, the amount
6 received per average daily membership for a county shall be the difference between the State
7 average current expense appropriations per student and the current expense appropriations per
8 student that the county could provide given the county's wealth and an average effort to fund
9 public schools. To derive the current expense appropriations per student that the county could be
10 able to provide given the county's wealth and an average effort to fund public schools, multiply
11 the county's wealth as a percentage of State average wealth by the State average current expense
12 appropriations per student. The funds for the local school administrative units located in whole
13 or in part in the county shall be allocated to each local school administrative unit located in whole
14 or in part in the county based on the average daily membership of the county's students in the
15 school units. If the funds appropriated for supplemental funding are not adequate to fund the
16 formula fully, each local school administrative unit shall receive a pro rata share of the funds
17 appropriated for supplemental funding.

18 (e) Formula for Distribution of Supplemental Funding Pursuant to this Section Only. –
19 The formula in this section is solely a basis for distribution of supplemental funding for
20 low-wealth counties and is not intended to reflect any measure of the adequacy of the educational
21 program or funding for public schools. The formula is also not intended to reflect any
22 commitment by the General Assembly to appropriate any additional supplemental funds for
23 low-wealth counties.

24 (f) Minimum Effort Required. – A county shall receive full funding under this section if
25 the county (i) maintains an effective county tax rate that is at least one hundred percent (100%)
26 of the effective State average tax rate in the most recent year for which data are available or (ii)
27 maintains a county appropriation per student to the school local current expense fund of at least
28 one hundred percent (100%) of the current expense appropriations per student to the school local
29 current expense fund that the county could provide given the county's wealth and an average
30 effort to fund public schools. A county that maintains a county appropriation per student to the
31 school local current expense fund of less than one hundred percent (100%) of the current expense
32 appropriations per student to the school local current expense fund that the county could provide
33 given the county's wealth and an average effort to fund public schools shall receive funding under
34 this section at the same percentage that the county's appropriation per student to the school local
35 current expense fund is of the current expense appropriations per student to the school local
36 current expense fund that the county could provide given the county's wealth and an average
37 effort to fund public schools.

38 (g) Nonsupplant Requirement. – A county in which a local school administrative unit
39 receives funds under this section shall use the funds to supplement local current expense funds
40 and shall not supplant local current expense funds. The State Board of Education shall not
41 allocate funds under this section to a county found to have used these funds to supplant local per
42 student current expense funds. The State Board of Education shall make a finding that a county
43 has used these funds to supplant local current expense funds in the prior year, or the year for
44 which the most recent data are available, if all of the following criteria apply:

- 45 (1) The current expense appropriations per student of the county for the current
46 year is less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the average of local current
47 expense appropriations per student for the three prior fiscal years.
- 48 (2) The county cannot show (i) that it has remedied the deficiency in funding or
49 (ii) that extraordinary circumstances caused the county to supplant local
50 current expense funds with funds allocated under this section.

1 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this
 2 subsection.

3 (h) Counties Containing a Base of the Armed Forces. – Notwithstanding any other
 4 provision of this section, counties containing a base of the Armed Forces of the United States
 5 that have an average daily membership of more than 17,000 students shall receive whichever is
 6 the higher amount in each fiscal year as follows: either the amount of supplemental funding the
 7 county received as a low-wealth county in the 2012-2013 fiscal year or the amount of
 8 supplemental funding the county is eligible to receive as a low-wealth county pursuant to the
 9 formula for distribution of supplemental funding under the other provisions of this section.

10 (i) Funds for EVAAS Data. – Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (a) of this
 11 section, local school administrative units may utilize funds allocated under this section to
 12 purchase services that allow for extraction of data from the Education Value-Added Assessment
 13 System (EVAAS).

14 (j) Reports. – The State Board of Education shall report to the Fiscal Research Division
 15 prior to May 15 of each year if it determines that counties have supplanted funds.

16 (k) Department of Revenue Reports. – The Department of Revenue shall provide to the
 17 Department of Public Instruction a preliminary report for the current fiscal year of the assessed
 18 value of the property tax base for each county prior to March 1 of each year and a final report
 19 prior to May 1 of each year. The reports shall include for each county the annual sales assessment
 20 ratio and the taxable values of (i) total real property, (ii) the portion of total real property
 21 represented by the present use value of agricultural land, horticultural land, and forestland, as
 22 defined in G.S. 105-277.2, (iii) property of public service companies determined in accordance
 23 with Article 23 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes, and (iv) personal property.

24 **"§ 115C-472.18. Small county school system supplemental funding.**

25 (a) Allotment Schedule. – Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section,
 26 each eligible county school administrative unit shall receive a dollar allotment according to the
 27 following schedule, on the basis of allotted ADM for the county school administrative unit, to
 28 the extent funds are made available for this purpose:

<u>Allotted ADM</u>	<u>Small County Allotment</u>
0-1,300	\$1,820,000
1,301-1,700	\$1,774,700
1,701-2,000	\$1,729,400
2,001-2,300	\$1,684,100
2,301-2,600	\$1,638,800
2,601-2,800	\$1,593,500
2,801-3,300	\$1,548,200

37 (b) Phase-Out Provision. – If a local school administrative unit becomes ineligible for
 38 funding under the schedule in subsection (a) of this section, funding for that unit shall be phased
 39 out over a five-year period. Funding for such local school administrative units shall be reduced
 40 in equal increments in each of the five years after the unit becomes ineligible. Funding shall be
 41 eliminated in the fifth fiscal year after the school administrative unit becomes ineligible.

42 Allotments for eligible local school administrative units under this subsection shall not be
 43 reduced in any fiscal year by more than twenty percent (20%) of the amount received during the
 44 fiscal year when the local school administrative unit became ineligible to receive funds under
 45 this section. A local school administrative unit shall not become ineligible for funding if either
 46 the highest of the first two months' total projected average daily membership for the current year
 47 or the higher of the first two months' total prior year average daily membership would otherwise
 48 have made the unit eligible for funds under the schedule in subsection (a) of this section.

49 (c) Nonsupplant Requirement. – A county in which a local school administrative unit
 50 receives funds under this section shall use the funds to supplement local current expense funds
 51 and shall not supplant local current expense funds. The State Board of Education shall not

1 allocate funds under this section to a county found to have used these funds to supplant local per
2 student current expense funds. The State Board of Education shall make a finding that a county
3 has used these funds to supplant local current expense funds in the prior year or the year for
4 which the most recent data are available, if all of the following criteria apply:

- 5 (1) The current expense appropriation per student of the county for the current
6 year is less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the average of local current
7 expense appropriation per student for the three prior fiscal years.
- 8 (2) The county cannot show (i) that it has remedied the deficiency in funding or
9 (ii) that extraordinary circumstances caused the county to supplant local
10 current expense funds with funds allocated under this section.

11 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this
12 subsection.

13 (d) Reports. – The State Board of Education shall report to the Fiscal Research Division
14 prior to May 15 of each fiscal year if it determines that counties have supplanted funds.

15 (e) Use of Funds. – Local boards of education are encouraged to use at least twenty
16 percent (20%) of the funds they receive pursuant to this section to improve the academic
17 performance of children who are performing at Level I or II on either reading or mathematics
18 end-of-grade tests in grades three through eight.

19 Local school administrative units may also utilize funds allocated under this section to
20 purchase services that allow for extraction of data from the Education Value-Added Assessment
21 System (EVAAS).

22 **"§ 115C-472.19. Disadvantaged student supplemental funding.**

23 (a) To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, funds appropriated for
24 disadvantaged student supplemental funding shall be used, consistent with the policies and
25 procedures adopted by the State Board of Education, only to do the following:

- 26 (1) Provide instructional positions or instructional support positions.
- 27 (2) Provide professional development.
- 28 (3) Provide intensive in-school or after-school remediation, or both.
- 29 (4) Purchase diagnostic software and progress-monitoring tools.
- 30 (5) Provide funds for teacher bonuses and supplements. The State Board of
31 Education shall set a maximum percentage of the funds that may be used for
32 this purpose.

33 The State Board of Education may require local school administrative units receiving funding
34 under the Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Fund to purchase the Education Value-Added
35 Assessment System (EVAAS) in order to provide in-depth analysis of student performance and
36 help identify strategies for improving student achievement. This data shall be used exclusively
37 for instructional and curriculum decisions made in the best interest of children and for
38 professional development for their teachers and administrators.

39 (b) Disadvantaged student supplemental funding (DSSF) shall be allotted to a local
40 school administrative unit based on (i) the unit's eligible DSSF population and (ii) the difference
41 between a teacher-to-student ratio of 1:21 and the following teacher-to-student ratios:

- 42 (1) For counties with wealth greater than ninety percent (90%) of the statewide
43 average, a ratio of 1:19.9.
- 44 (2) For counties with wealth not less than eighty percent (80%) and not greater
45 than ninety percent (90%) of the statewide average, a ratio of 1:19.4.
- 46 (3) For counties with wealth less than eighty percent (80%) of the statewide
47 average, a ratio of 1:19.1.
- 48 (4) For local school administrative units that received DSSF funds in fiscal year
49 2005-2006, a ratio of 1:16. These local school administrative units shall
50 receive no less than the DSSF amount allotted in fiscal year 2006-2007.

1 For the purpose of this subsection, wealth shall be calculated under the low-wealth
2 supplemental formula as provided for in this Article.

3 (c) If a local school administrative unit's wealth increases to a level that adversely affects
4 the unit's disadvantaged student supplemental funding (DSSF) allotment ratio, the DSSF
5 allotment for that unit shall be maintained at the prior year level for one additional fiscal year."
6

7 RECLASSIFY DPI POSITIONS

8 **SECTION 7.4.(a)** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-6-4, the Department of Public
9 Instruction shall reclassify at least one position to be a Read to Achieve Charter School
10 Coordinator.

11 **SECTION 7.4.(b)** In making the change identified in subsection (a) of this section,
12 the Department of Public Instruction shall not do either of the following:

- 13 (1) Reduce funding for any of the following:
- 14 a. The State Public School Fund, including for the following residential
15 schools:
 - 16 1. The Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf.
 - 17 2. The North Carolina School for the Deaf.
 - 18 3. The Governor Morehead School.
 - 19 b. Any budget expansion item funded by an appropriation to the
20 Department of Public Instruction by this act for the 2023-2025 fiscal
21 biennium.
- 22 (2) Transfer from or reduce funding or positions for any of the following:
- 23 a. Communities in Schools of North Carolina, Inc.
 - 24 b. Teach for America, Inc.
 - 25 c. Beginnings for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing,
26 Inc.
 - 27 d. The Excellent Public Schools Act, Read to Achieve Program, initially
28 established under Section 7A.1 of S.L. 2012-142.
 - 29 e. The North Carolina School Connectivity Program.
 - 30 f. The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.
 - 31 g. The Schools That Lead Program.
 - 32 h. The Center for Safer Schools.
- 33

34 WEIGHTED FUNDING FOR EC STUDENTS

35 **SECTION 7.7.** The Department of Public Instruction shall develop a model, based
36 on the study conducted pursuant to Section 7.44 of S.L. 2021-180, for funding children with
37 disabilities services on the basis of the reported cost of the services provided. The Department
38 shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by January 15, 2024, on the
39 model of funding developed pursuant to this section and a comparison by public school unit of
40 funds provided under the existing model and the model developed pursuant to this section.
41

42 ABOLISH CERTAIN UNFILLED POSITIONS

43 **SECTION 7.12.** The following positions vacant for longer than two years are
44 abolished as of July 1, 2023:

- 45 (1) 60009659.
- 46 (2) 60009654.
- 47 (3) 60009651.
- 48 (4) 60009667.

49 The Department may reestablish these or create substantially similar positions as
50 needed within funds available pursuant to G.S. 115C-546.2(e).
51

CAREER EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

SECTION 7.13.(a) Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 115C-81.12. Career pathways course.

The State Board shall develop standards for a middle school course in which students investigate and learn about career pathways. The standards shall align with the requirements for career development plans under G.S. 115C-158.10(c). All students in grade seven shall complete the course, and, by the conclusion of the course, students shall complete a career development plan as required under G.S. 115C-158.10(a)."

SECTION 7.13.(b) Article 10 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"Part 1A. Career Development Plans.**"§ 115C-158.10. Career development plans.**

(a) All middle and high school students enrolled in a local school administrative unit shall complete a career development plan that meets the requirements of this section. The local board of education shall ensure that students are provided assistance in completion of the plan as well as instruction on how to access that plan throughout the student's enrollment. A student shall not be promoted from seventh grade until a career development plan is created and shall not be promoted from tenth grade until the career development plan is revised. Local boards of education are encouraged to require more frequent revisions as appropriate. Charter schools are encouraged to require participation in career development plans for students in accordance with this section.

(b) Local boards of education shall ensure that career development plans are easily accessible to students and parents and shall provide parents written notice of the initial creation of a career development plan and information on how to access the plan.

(c) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules establishing minimum requirements for career development plans and shall require local boards of education to provide access to all career development plans through a designated electronic application. Career development plans shall include at least the following:

- (1) Self-assessment of the student's aptitudes, skills, values, personality, and career interests.
- (2) Exploration and identification of pathways for careers aligned with the student's self-assessment that include the following for each career:
 - a. Identification of needed education, training, and certifications.
 - b. Information on the most cost-efficient path to entry.
 - c. Opportunities within the school setting to explore and prepare for the career.
- (3) Alignment of academic courses and extracurricular activities with the student's identified career interests, including the following:
 - a. Inventory of aligned courses in middle and high school in grades six through 10, and development of best strategies for course selection in grades 11 and 12 to achieve identified career interests, including courses that may lead to college credit.
 - b. Available record of the following:
 1. Completed Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), and dual-enrollment courses that may lead to college credit in high school.
 2. Extracurricular activities.
 3. Awards and recognitions.
- (4) Creation of a career portfolio, which may include items such as the following:

- 1 a. Documentation of postsecondary plans.
- 2 b. Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid with
- 3 parental consent.
- 4 c. Resume.
- 5 d. Occupational outlook for identified career interests."

6 **SECTION 7.13.(c)** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to
7 read:

8 "(k) Career Development Plans. – A charter school is encouraged to adopt a policy to
9 require all middle and high school students to complete a career development plan in accordance
10 with G.S. 115C-158.10."

11 **SECTION 7.13.(d)** The State Board of Education shall establish a pilot of at least
12 20 local school administrative units during the 2023-2024 school year to develop the plan
13 requirements and professional development necessary for successful statewide implementation
14 of career development plans in the 2024-2025 school year. The State Board of Education shall
15 direct the Department of Public Instruction to develop and provide a career development plan
16 electronic application to local boards of education and participating charter schools no later than
17 the 2024-2025 school year that will provide access for all students and parents to the student's
18 career development plan and will integrate with career information available through other State
19 agencies.

20 **SECTION 7.13.(e)** The Department of Public Instruction and the local boards of
21 education, as appropriate, shall provide or cause to be provided, prior to the start of the 2024-2025
22 school year, curriculum content for the course required in subsection (a) of this section and
23 professional development to ensure that the intent and provisions of this section are carried out.

24 **SECTION 7.13.(f)** Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section become effective
25 beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. The remainder of this section becomes effective July
26 1, 2023.

27 **DPI FUNDING IN ARREARS**

28 **SECTION 7.20.(a)** The Department of Public Instruction shall develop a model to
29 fund public school units whose funding is based on average daily membership (ADM) to be
30 based on the actual ADM from the prior school year instead of projections for the upcoming
31 school year. The Department shall include in the model a method to account for newly formed
32 charter schools to ensure the charter schools receive adequate funding to operate before prior
33 year ADM data is available or representative of the student population. The Department shall
34 propose technical adjustments for public school funding to the State Board of Education for
35 approval before submitting the model to the Director of the Budget, pursuant to G.S. 143C-3-3.
36 The Department shall also submit the model to the Fiscal Research Division no later than
37 February 15, 2024. The technical adjustments shall include a list of any laws that would need to
38 be adjusted or repealed to allow for the new funding model to be implemented as well as a
39 comparison of funding received under the old model and the recommended new model, sorted
40 by public school unit.

41 **SECTION 7.20.(b)** Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the Department of
42 Public Instruction shall distribute funds to public school units whose funding is based on ADM
43 based on the actual ADM from the prior school year in accordance with the model developed
44 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The Department shall provide funds from the ADM
45 Contingency Reserve to fund public school units whose actual ADM for the current school year
46 is higher than the actual ADM from the prior school year.

47 **SECTION 7.20.(c)** Section 7.15(b) of S.L. 2007-323 is repealed.

48 **SECTION 7.20.(d)** Subsections (b) and (c) of this section become effective July 1,
49 2024. The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.
50
51

SCHOOL HEALTH PERSONNEL ALLOTMENT

SECTION 7.27.(a) G.S. 115C-47(67) reads as rewritten:

"(67) ~~To Provide at Least One School Psychologist-School Health Services.~~ – Local boards of education shall ensure that each local school administrative unit employs at least one full-time, permanent school psychologist, provide school health support services in accordance with G.S. 115C-316.5."

SECTION 7.27.(b) G.S. 115C-105.25(b)(13) reads as rewritten:

"(13) No positions shall be transferred out of the allocation for school ~~psychologists~~ health personnel except as provided in this subdivision. Positions allocated for school ~~psychologists~~ health personnel may be converted to dollar equivalents for contracted services directly related to school ~~psychology.~~ psychology, school counseling, school nursing, and school social work. These positions shall be converted at the minimum salary for school ~~psychologists~~ the position on the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule."

SECTION 7.27.(c) G.S. 115C-315 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(d2) School Nurses. – The State Board of Education, in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, may adopt rules to establish the qualifications and training required to be hired or contracted for as a certified school nurse except the Board may not require or impose a requirement that would require a nurse to obtain a four-year degree as a condition of employment."

SECTION 7.27.(d) G.S. 115C-315(d1) is repealed.

SECTION 7.27.(e) G.S. 115C-316.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-316.1. Duties of school counselors.

(a) School counselors shall implement a comprehensive ~~developmental~~ school counseling program in their schools. ~~Counselors shall spend at least eighty percent (80%) of their work time~~ schools providing direct services to students. ~~Direct services do not include the coordination of standardized testing.~~ Direct services shall consist of:

- (1) ~~Delivering~~ In coordination with the school career development coordinator, if any, delivering the school guidance curriculum through large group guidance, interdisciplinary curriculum development, group activities, and parent workshops.
- (2) ~~Guiding individual student planning through individual or small group assistance and individual or small group advisement.~~
- (3) Providing responsive services through consultation with students, families, and staff; individual and small group counseling; crisis counseling; referrals; and peer facilitation.
- (4) Performing other student services listed in the Department of Public Instruction school counselor job description that has been approved by the State Board of Education.

(b) ~~School counseling program support activities do not include the coordination of standardized testing. During the remainder of their work time, school counselors may assist other staff with the coordination of standardized testing.~~ counselors shall not spend their work time coordinating standardized testing."

SECTION 7.27.(f) Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 115C-316.1A. Duties of career development coordinators.

(a) Career development coordinators shall spend at least eighty percent (80%) of their work time providing direct services to students. Direct services for career development coordinators shall consist of:

- 1 (1) In coordination with the school counselor, if any, delivering the school
- 2 guidance curriculum through large group guidance, interdisciplinary
- 3 curriculum development, group activities, and parents workshops.
- 4 (2) Guiding individual students through navigating the academic, training, and
- 5 employment opportunities available to the student through individual or small
- 6 group advisement.
- 7 (3) Performing other student services listed in the Department of Public
- 8 Instruction career development coordinator job description that has been
- 9 approved by the State Board of Education.

10 (b) Career development coordinators may spend the remainder of their work time
 11 assisting other staff with the coordination of standardized testing."

12 **SECTION 7.27.(g)** G.S. 115C-316.2 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 115C-316.2. School ~~mental health support~~ personnel reports.**

14 (a) Definition. – For purposes of this section, the term "school ~~mental health support~~

15 ~~personnel~~" refers to school psychologists, school counselors, school nurses, and school social

16 workers.

17 "

18 **SECTION 7.27.(h)** G.S. 115C-316.5 reads as rewritten:

19 **"§ 115C-316.5. School ~~psychologists health~~ personnel allotment.**

20 (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "school health personnel" refers to the same
 21 positions listed in G.S. 115C-316.2(a).

22 To the extent funds are made available, the State Board of Education shall establish a funding

23 allotment for school ~~psychologist health~~ personnel positions. The State Board is authorized to

24 adopt rules for the allocation of school ~~psychologist health~~ personnel positions pursuant to this

25 allotment. Rules adopted by the State Board pursuant to this section shall include, at a minimum,

26 the following requirements:

- 27 (1) School ~~psychologist health~~ personnel positions are allocated on the basis of
- 28 average daily membership.
- 29 (2) Each local school administrative unit receives sufficient funding for at least
- 30 one school psychologist ~~position~~ in accordance with
- 31 G.S. 115C-47(67)-position.
- 32 (3) Local school administrative units are encouraged to fill positions under this
- 33 allotment with full-time, permanent employees. If the local school
- 34 administrative unit is unable to fill these positions by hiring a full-time,
- 35 permanent employee, the allocation for the position may be converted to a
- 36 dollar equivalent for the unit to contract with a third party to provide the
- 37 relevant services for an amount of hours equivalent to the hours a full-time
- 38 position employee would provide."

39 **SECTION 7.27.(i)** The State Board of Education has authority to adopt temporary

40 rules to enact the provisions of this section until such a time as permanent rules can be adopted.

41 The State Board shall also develop and distribute guidelines to all local school administrative

42 units to assist with the implementation of this section. Each local board of education shall develop

43 a transition plan for implementing this section within existing resources.

44

45 **CODIFY USE OF SPECIAL STATE RESERVE FUND FOR**

46 **TRANSPORTATION/TRANSPORTATION RESERVE FUND FOR HOMELESS**

47 **AND FOSTER STUDENTS**

48 **SECTION 7.30.(a)** Part 1 of Article 17 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is

49 amended by adding two new sections to read:

50 **"§ 115C-250.3. Extraordinary Transportation Costs Grant.**

1 (a) There is established the Extraordinary Transportation Costs Grant Program
2 (Program). The Program shall use funds from the Special State Reserve Fund (SSRF) to cover
3 extraordinary costs associated with the transportation of high-needs students with disabilities.

4 (b) The Department of Public Instruction shall provide an application for local school
5 administrative units and charter schools to apply for extraordinary transportation funds and may
6 provide additional eligibility guidelines not inconsistent with this section. SSRF transportation
7 funds shall be awarded to qualifying local school administrative units or charter schools
8 consistent with the following:

9 (1) In determining extraordinary transportation costs, the Department shall
10 consider total prior-year transportation expenditures for high-needs children
11 with disabilities, including expenditures from local funds and all other funding
12 sources, as a proportion of total expenditures.

13 (2) Applicants with highest extraordinary transportation costs shall receive
14 highest priority in the award of grant funds.

15 (3) Funds may be awarded during the initial year of a high-needs student's
16 enrollment in the local school administrative unit or charter school or in
17 subsequent years of the student's enrollment.

18 **"§ 115C-250.5. Homeless and foster student transportation grant.**

19 (a) There is established the Transportation Reserve Fund for Homeless and Foster
20 Students to provide for a grant program to cover extraordinary school transportation costs for
21 homeless and foster students. For the purposes of this section, "homeless" is defined in
22 accordance with the definition in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

23 (b) The Department of Public Instruction shall provide an application process for local
24 school administrative units and charter schools to apply for funds to cover extraordinary
25 transportation costs for qualifying students. The Department shall establish eligibility guidelines
26 and shall award funds consistent with the following requirements:

27 (1) In determining extraordinary transportation costs, the Department shall
28 consider total prior-year transportation expenditures for homeless and foster
29 children, including expenditures from local funds and all other funding
30 sources, as a proportion of total expenditures.

31 (2) Priority shall be given to applicants in proportion to the extent that their
32 applications and prior-year expenditures demonstrate use of available federal
33 funds to cover the cost of transporting homeless and foster children.

34 (3) Awards shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of extraordinary transportation
35 costs as determined pursuant to this subsection.

36 (4) Awards shall not be issued on a pro rata basis to each eligible applicant."

37 **SECTION 7.30.(b)** Section 7.12(b) of S.L. 2021-180 is repealed.

38
39 **MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

40 **SECTION 7.32.** Section 7.16(a) of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

41 **"SECTION 7.16.(a)** The Department of Public Instruction shall enter into a contract
42 with a third-party entity for any administrative services necessary to receive maximum
43 reimbursement for medically necessary health care services for which payment is available under
44 the North Carolina Medicaid Program provided to eligible students attending the Governor
45 Morehead School for the Blind, the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf, and the North
46 Carolina School for the Deaf. The provisions of the contract shall ensure that the residential
47 schools receive reimbursement for these services in a timely manner. If the Department of Public
48 Instruction has not executed the contract required by this section by January 1, 2024, then the
49 estimated amount that would have been reimbursed on a monthly basis had the contract been
50 executed shall be deducted from the Department's budget and shall be appropriated directly to
51 the residential schools until the contract is executed. Funds shall be deducted from Budget Code

1 13510, Fund Code 1000 of the Department's budget, except any funds appropriated for the Center
2 for Safer Schools shall not be reduced, deducted, or transferred under this section."

4 **SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS**

5 **SECTION 7.36.(a)** Definitions. – For the purposes of this section, the following
6 definitions shall apply:

- 7 (1) Community partner. – A public or private entity, including, but not limited to,
8 a nonprofit corporation or a local management entity/managed care
9 organization (LME/MCO), that partners with a public school unit to provide
10 services or pay for the provision of services for the unit.
- 11 (2) School health support personnel. – School psychologists, school counselors,
12 school nurses, and school social workers.

13 **SECTION 7.36.(b)** Program; Purpose. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction
14 shall establish the School Safety Grants Program (Program) for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.
15 The purpose of the Program shall be to improve safety in public school units by providing grants
16 in each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for (i) services for students in crisis, (ii)
17 school safety training, (iii) safety equipment in schools, and (iv) subsidizing the School Resource
18 Officer Grants Program.

19 **SECTION 7.36.(c)** Grant Applications. – A public school unit may submit an
20 application to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for one or more grants pursuant to this
21 section in each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. The application shall include an
22 assessment, to be performed in conjunction with a local law enforcement agency, of the need for
23 improving school safety within the public school unit that would receive the funding or services.
24 The application shall identify current and ongoing needs and estimated costs associated with
25 those needs.

26 **SECTION 7.36.(d)** Criteria and Guidelines. – By January 15, 2024, the
27 Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop criteria and guidelines for the administration
28 and use of the grants pursuant to this section, including any documentation required to be
29 submitted by applicants. In assessing grant applications, the Superintendent of Public Instruction
30 shall consider at least all of the following factors:

- 31 (1) The level of resources available to the public school unit that would receive
32 the funding.
- 33 (2) Whether the public school unit has received other grants for school safety.
- 34 (3) The overall impact on student safety in the public school unit if the identified
35 needs are funded.

36 **SECTION 7.36.(e)** Grants for Students in Crisis. – Of the funds appropriated to the
37 Department of Public Instruction by this act for the grants provided in this section, the
38 Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human
39 Services, shall award grants to public school units to contract with community partners to provide
40 or pay for the provision of any of the following crisis services:

- 41 (1) Crisis respite services for parents or guardians of an individual student to
42 prevent more intensive or costly levels of care.
- 43 (2) Training and expanded services for therapeutic foster care families and
44 licensed child placement agencies that provide services to students who (i)
45 need support to manage their health, welfare, and safety and (ii) have any of
46 the following:
 - 47 a. Cognitive or behavioral problems.
 - 48 b. Developmental delays.
 - 49 c. Aggressive behavior.
- 50 (3) Evidence-based therapy services aligned with targeted training for students
51 and their parents or guardians, including any of the following:

- 1 a. Parent-child interaction therapy.
- 2 b. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
- 3 c. Dialectical behavior therapy.
- 4 d. Child-parent psychotherapy.
- 5 (4) Any other crisis service, including peer-to-peer mentoring, that is likely to
- 6 increase school safety. Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public
- 7 Instruction by this act for the grants provided in this section, the
- 8 Superintendent shall use no more than three hundred fifty thousand dollars
- 9 (\$350,000) in each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for the services
- 10 identified in this subdivision.

11 **SECTION 7.36.(f)** Grants for Training to Increase School Safety. – Of the funds
12 appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction by this act for the grants provided in this
13 section, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Health
14 and Human Services, shall award grants to public school units to contract with community
15 partners to address school safety by providing training to help students develop healthy responses
16 to trauma and stress. The training shall be targeted and evidence-based and shall include any of
17 the following services:

- 18 (1) Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training for school health
- 19 support personnel, local first responders, and teachers on the topics of suicide
- 20 prevention and reducing access by students to lethal means.
- 21 (2) Training for school health support personnel on comprehensive and
- 22 evidence-based clinical treatments for students and their parents or guardians,
- 23 including any of the following:
 - 24 a. Parent-child interaction therapy.
 - 25 b. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
 - 26 c. Behavioral therapy.
 - 27 d. Dialectical behavior therapy.
 - 28 e. Child-parent psychotherapy.
- 29 (3) Training for students and school employees on community resilience models
- 30 to improve understanding and responses to trauma and significant stress.
- 31 (4) Training for school health support personnel on Modular Approach to
- 32 Therapy for Children with Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, or Conduct
- 33 problems (MATCH-ADTC), including any of the following components:
 - 34 a. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
 - 35 b. Parent and student coping skills.
 - 36 c. Problem solving.
 - 37 d. Safety planning.
- 38 (5) Any other training, including the training on the facilitation of peer-to-peer
- 39 mentoring, that is likely to increase school safety. Of the funds appropriated
- 40 to the Department of Public Instruction by this act for the grants provided in
- 41 this section, the Superintendent shall use no more than three hundred fifty
- 42 thousand dollars (\$350,000) in each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for
- 43 the services identified in this subdivision.

44 **SECTION 7.36.(g)** Grants for Safety Equipment. – Of the funds appropriated to the
45 Department of Public Instruction by this act for the grants provided in this section, the
46 Superintendent of Public Instruction shall award grants to public school units for (i) the purchase
47 of safety equipment for school buildings and (ii) training associated with the use of safety
48 equipment purchased pursuant to this subsection. Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-218.105(b),
49 charter schools may receive grants for school safety equipment pursuant to this subsection.

50 **SECTION 7.36.(g1)** Subsidizing School Resource Officer Grants Program. – If the
51 Superintendent of Public Instruction receives applications for grants for school resource officers

1 under G.S. 115C-105.60 in excess of the amount of funding appropriated for school resource
2 officer grants in the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the Superintendent may use the funds
3 appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction for the grants provided for in this section to
4 cover the unmet need for school resource officer grants.

5 **SECTION 7.36.(h)** Supplement Not Supplant. – Grants provided to public school
6 units pursuant to the Program shall be used to supplement and not to supplant State or non-State
7 funds already provided for these services.

8 **SECTION 7.36.(i)** Administrative Costs. – Of the funds appropriated to the
9 Department of Public Instruction by this act for the grants provided in this section, the
10 Superintendent of Public Instruction may retain a total of up to one hundred thousand dollars
11 (\$100,000) in each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for administrative costs
12 associated with the Program.

13 **SECTION 7.36.(j)** Report. – No later than April 1 of each fiscal year in which funds
14 are awarded pursuant to this section, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall report on the
15 Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Oversight
16 Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice
17 and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Senate
18 Appropriations/Base Budget Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Fiscal
19 Research Division. The report shall include at least the following information:

- 20 (1) The identity of each public school unit and community partner that received
21 grant funds through the Program.
- 22 (2) The amount of funding received by each entity identified pursuant to
23 subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- 24 (3) The services, training, and equipment purchased with grant funds by each
25 entity that received a grant.
- 26 (4) Recommendations for the implementation of additional effective school
27 safety measures.

29 **REVISE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS REQUIREMENTS**

30 **SECTION 7.47.** G.S. 115C-240(e) reads as rewritten:

31 "(e) The State Board of Education shall allocate to the respective local boards
32 of education funds appropriated from time to time by the General Assembly for the purpose of
33 providing transportation to the pupils enrolled in the public schools within this State. Such funds
34 shall be allocated by the State Board of Education ~~in accordance with~~ based on the efficiency of
35 the local school administrative units in transporting pupils. The efficiency of the units shall be
36 calculated using the number of pupils to be transported, the length of bus routes, road conditions
37 and all other circumstances affecting the cost of the transportation of pupils by school bus to the
38 end that the funds so appropriated may be allocated on a fair and equitable basis, according to
39 the needs of the respective local school administrative ~~units and so as to provide the most efficient~~
40 ~~use of such funds.~~ units. Such allocation shall be made by the State Board of Education at the
41 beginning of each fiscal year, except that the year, based on the most recently available data from
42 a prior school year. The State Board may reserve for future allocation from time to time within
43 ~~such fiscal year as the need therefor shall be found to exist,~~ a reasonable amount not to exceed
44 ~~ten percent (10%)~~ five percent (5%) of the total funds available for transportation in such fiscal
45 year from such appropriation. Prior to April 1 of the fiscal year in which the funds are reserved,
46 the reserved funds shall be allocated only in the event of an emergency need of a local school
47 administrative unit. In the event reserved funds remain by April 1 of that fiscal year, the State
48 Board shall allocate the remaining funds to all local school administrative units based on the
49 efficiency of the units in transporting pupils. If there is evidence of inequitable or inefficient use
50 of funds, the State Board of Education shall be empowered to review school bus routes

1 established by local boards pursuant to G.S. 115C-246 as well as other factors affecting the cost
2 of the transportation of pupils by school bus."
3

4 **FUNDS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/HOSPITALITY JOBS**

5 **SECTION 7.51.(a)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public
6 Instruction for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium by this act, the sum of up to four
7 hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) shall be made available for each year of the 2023-2025
8 fiscal biennium to the North Carolina Hospitality Education Foundation (Education Foundation)
9 of the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association to be used to provide nationally
10 certified programs in career and technical education focused on developing critical skills
11 necessary for students to succeed in the hospitality sector. The purpose of the funds shall be to
12 support instructor and student training and student testing to increase the State's skilled workforce
13 in the restaurant and lodging sectors. The Education Foundation shall match State funds made
14 available pursuant to this section on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) in State funds for every one
15 dollar (\$1.00) in non-State funds.

16 **SECTION 7.51.(b)** The Education Foundation, in consultation with the Department
17 of Public Instruction, shall submit a report by April 1 of each year in which the Education
18 Foundation spends State funds made available pursuant to this section to the Joint Legislative
19 Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the activities described by
20 this section and the use of those funds.
21

22 **LEADERSHIP DASHBOARD AND LEARNING RECOVERY/SAS**

23 **SECTION 7.52.(a)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public
24 Instruction by this act, the sum of four hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$465,000) in
25 recurring funds for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to continue
26 partnering with SAS Institute, Inc. (SAS), to continue funding the North Carolina Leadership
27 Dashboard and to support SAS as it expands analytics work in cooperation with the Department.
28

29 **SECTION 7.52.(b)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public
30 Instruction by this act, the sum of five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000) in nonrecurring
31 funds for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to continue to partner with
32 SAS to fund learning recovery analysis, student projections to pre-pandemic expected
33 performance, and web reporting on year-over-year modeling for learning recovery.

34 **SPECIAL NEEDS PILOT PROGRAM**

35 **SECTION 7.53.** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction,
36 the sum of nine hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$975,000) in nonrecurring funds for each
37 year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to contract with Amplio Learning
38 Technologies, Inc., to create a new pilot program (Program) for a special education digital
39 intervention software platform in Alamance County Schools, Catawba County Schools, and Nash
40 County Schools to increase opportunities for students with special needs. The Program shall
41 focus primarily on students receiving interventions for speech language and reading
42 development, including English language learners, to provide more optimized progress for the
43 interventions. To provide more effective and efficient opportunities for Medicaid billing for
44 speech language pathologists (SLP) services and dyslexia-related services, the platform chosen
45 should include digital evidence-based curricula specifically aligned to speech, language, and
46 literacy intervention goals. The chosen solution should include real-time automatic
47 measurements, data collection, and documentation, as well as goal tracking and administrative
48 dashboards. The platform chosen should be a web-based application accessible on multiple
49 devices allowing flexible application across classroom-based, small group, and individual
50 intervention models and utilized by a variety of intervention team members, including special
51 educators, SLPs, Reading Interventionists, SLP assistants, and educational aides. The

1 Department of Public Instruction shall report on the results of the Program to the Joint Legislative
2 Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division by October 15, 2025. The report shall
3 include at least (i) a comparison of Medicaid reimbursements paid out to participating public
4 school units compared against public school units that did not participate in the Program and (ii)
5 a comparison of Medicaid reimbursements paid out to public school units after participating in
6 the Program compared against Medicaid reimbursements paid out to participating public school
7 units prior to their participation in the Program.

9 **INCREASE AMOUNT FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DAY CENTERS/REPORT**

10 **SECTION 7.54.(a)** From funds available to the Developmental Day Center program,
11 the Department of Public Instruction shall set the funding rate for each eligible student enrolled
12 in a Center at up to a maximum of one thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$1,350) per month.

13 **SECTION 7.54.(b)** The Department of Public Instruction shall report by October 15
14 of each year funds are received for Developmental Day Centers to the Joint Legislative Education
15 Oversight Committee on at least the following related to Developmental Day Centers:

- 16 (1) The number of students enrolled in Developmental Day Centers.
- 17 (2) The average funding rate for each eligible student enrolled in a Center.
- 18 (3) The percentage of eligible students enrolled in Centers that warranted
19 dispersal of the maximum funding amount per month.
- 20 (4) The number of staffing vacancies in Centers, disaggregated by each Center.
- 21 (5) Any other information the Department deems relevant.

23 **CTE MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION**

24 **SECTION 7.55.** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction
25 by this act, up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) in nonrecurring funds for each year
26 of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to create a grant program for modernization of
27 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming, materials, training, and professional
28 development for courses conducted in grades six through 12. The Department shall establish a
29 grant program for each school year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to which a public school
30 unit or regional partnership of more than one public school unit may apply to receive funds if a
31 school within the unit or partnership has an existing CTE program. Grant recipients shall use the
32 funds distributed to them under this section to procure and implement an online digital CTE
33 learning platform containing comprehensive courses with lesson plans, media-rich content and
34 activities, and interactive assessments that align with the North Carolina Career and Technical
35 Education Standards. The platform shall have modules that assist teachers in preparing students
36 for high-wage, high-growth career areas. By October 1, 2023, the Department shall select
37 approved providers to guarantee consistency throughout the State. Any selected digital CTE
38 learning platform shall include at least all of the following components:

- 39 (1) Instructional strategies and guided lesson plans to assist teachers with
40 classroom implementation and instructional differentiation.
- 41 (2) Media-based instructional content for providing demonstrations and
42 instruction on skills required for applicable career areas.
- 43 (3) Multiple methods of delivery of instruction, including at least face-to-face,
44 self-paced, and distance or hybrid learning.
- 45 (4) Guided projects and activities to incorporate hands-on application of skills.
- 46 (5) A focus on mastery-based learning.
- 47 (6) Reporting features to provide data on student progress.
- 48 (7) Guidance for students to obtain industry-recognized certifications.
- 49 (8) Career connections to provide examples of career opportunities following
50 graduation from high school.

DPI FUND CODE FLEXIBILITY

SECTION 7.56. As part of the certification of the budget for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Office of State Budget and Management and the Fiscal Research Division, shall redefine the fund codes composing the State Public School Fund as necessary to facilitate effective public school unit budgeting and cash management in preparation for the implementation of the North Carolina Financial System.

ENHANCED SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM GRANTS

SECTION 7.57.(a) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) Extended mechanical stop signal. – A mechanical stop signal that is a minimum of 60 inches away from the side of the school bus when extended, whether operated independently or in conjunction with a shorter mechanical stop signal.
- (2) Illuminated mechanical stop signal. – A mechanical stop signal that is illuminated with a light-emitting diode (LED) light source.
- (3) Mechanical stop signal. – A retractable mechanical arm with a stop sign and red flashing lights attached to the end of the arm that is mounted to the driver side of a school bus and used to stop traffic while students disembark the bus, as referenced in G.S. 20-217, and in conformity with Standard No. 131 of Part 571 of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
- (4) School bus. – As defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27).

SECTION 7.57.(b) With the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction by this act for this purpose, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall establish the Enhanced School Bus Stop Arm Grant Program (Program) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to administer funds to public school units to add, upgrade, or replace mechanical stop signals on school buses with either illuminated mechanical stop signals or extended mechanical stop signals to increase the safety of students when disembarking or boarding the bus.

SECTION 7.57.(c) The Superintendent shall develop the application process for the Program and inform public school units how to apply. At a minimum, the Superintendent shall consider the type and number of stop signal additions, upgrades, or replacements the public school unit proposes to complete and the number of bus routes or stops that are known to pose a significant safety risk.

SECTION 7.57.(d) No later than April 15, 2024, the Superintendent shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee containing at least the following information:

- (1) Which public school units received grants and in what amounts.
- (2) Whether the public school unit purchased (i) extended mechanical stop signals, (ii) illuminated mechanical stop signals, or (iii) both.
- (3) What outstanding need remains, if any, including the amount needed to fulfill remaining grant requests.
- (4) The impact of the program on student safety.
- (5) Recommendations for additional school bus mechanical stop signal technology or implementation.

ELIMINATE STUDENT COPAY FOR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

SECTION 7.58. Funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction by this act for reduced-price school meal copays shall be used to provide school breakfasts and lunches at no cost to students of all grade levels that qualify for reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program in the current school year. If the funds are insufficient to provide school meals at no cost to students qualifying for reduced-price

1 meals, the Department of Public Instruction may use funds appropriated to the State Aid for
2 Public Schools fund for this purpose.

4 **CEP MEAL PROGRAM EXPANSION PILOT**

5 **SECTION 7.59.(a)** Program; Purpose. – The Department of Public Instruction shall
6 establish the CEP Program Expansion Pilot (Pilot) for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to expand
7 public school participation in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program to
8 increase the number of students with access to healthy, cost-free school breakfast and lunch. The
9 Pilot shall be available to public school units for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. It is the intent of the
10 General Assembly to continue the Pilot in the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.

11 **SECTION 7.59.(b)** Eligibility. – A public school unit is eligible for the Pilot if any
12 school within the public school unit qualifies for the federal CEP program and the qualifying
13 schools do not participate in the CEP program in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

14 **SECTION 7.59.(c)** Application. – By January 15, 2024, the Department shall
15 develop the application for the Pilot and make it available to public school units. Public school
16 units shall submit their applications by March 1, 2024. At a minimum, the application shall
17 include the following information:

- 18 (1) The school or schools that will participate in the CEP program.
- 19 (2) The Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for the school or schools for the
20 2024-2025 school year.
- 21 (3) The number of students enrolled in the school or schools for the 2024-2025
22 school year.
- 23 (4) Participation rates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs for
24 the 2023-2024 school year for the schools requesting to participate in the Pilot.

25 **SECTION 7.59.(d)** Selection. – By April 30, 2024, the Department shall determine
26 whether each applicant is eligible to participate in the Pilot. The Department shall then award
27 grants to all eligible public school units. If there are insufficient funds to award grants to all
28 eligible public school units, the Department shall prioritize awarding grants to public school units
29 with an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of greater than or equal to forty-seven percent (47%).

30 **SECTION 7.59.(e)** Grants. – The Department shall issue State reimbursements to
31 participating public school units to supplement federal reimbursements of school meals. State
32 reimbursement shall equal the difference between the federal free rate and the federal paid rate
33 for the number of meals served at the participating schools equal to a 0.2 multiplier of the ISP
34 for the participating schools. State and federal reimbursements shall not exceed one hundred
35 percent (100%) of the federal free rate of meals served. Schools participating in the Pilot shall
36 offer breakfast after the bell and in the classroom.

37 **SECTION 7.59.(f)** Nonsupplant Requirement. – A public school unit that receives
38 funds under the Pilot shall use the funds to supplement and not supplant local current expense
39 funds.

40 **SECTION 7.59.(g)** Report. – No later than January 1, 2025, the Department shall
41 report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division
42 at least the following information:

- 43 (1) The number of schools that participated in the Pilot.
- 44 (2) The number of students that received free meals due to the Pilot who did not
45 before.
- 46 (3) The amount of federal money participating public school units received.
- 47 (4) The amount awarded to each public school unit.

48 **SECTION 7.59.(h)** Administration. – The Department may use up to five hundred
49 thousand dollars (\$500,000) of the funds appropriated to the Department for the Pilot in the
50 2023-2024 fiscal year for the administrative costs of implementing the Pilot.

NO ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY FOR UNPAID MEAL DEBT

SECTION 7.60.(a) G.S. 115C-264 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
"(d) Governing bodies of public school units shall not impose administrative penalties on a student for unpaid school meal debt. Administrative penalties include the following:

(1) Withholding student records, including transcripts, report cards, attendance records, and health records.

(2) Not allowing a student to participate in graduation or receive a diploma."

SECTION 7.60.(b) G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(k) Unpaid Meal Debt. – If a charter school participates in the school nutrition program, the charter school may not impose administrative penalties on a student for unpaid school meal debt in accordance with G.S. 115C-264(d)."

SECTION 7.60.(c) G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(19) Unpaid meal debt. – If a regional school participates in the school nutrition program, the regional school may not impose administrative penalties on a student for unpaid school meal debt in accordance with G.S. 115C-264(d)."

SECTION 7.60.(d) G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(22) Unpaid meal debt. – If a laboratory school participates in the school nutrition program, the laboratory school may not impose administrative penalties on a student for unpaid school meal debt in accordance with G.S. 115C-264(d)."

HIGH SCHOOL REMOTE INSTRUCTION FLEXIBILITY PILOT

SECTION 7.61.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-84.3(c), for the 2023-2024 through 2027-2028 school years, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall select 10 local school administrative units to participate in a remote instruction flexibility pilot. The pilot shall authorize local boards of education to establish a school calendar for high schools that uses up to five days or 30 hours of remote instruction, as defined in G.S. 115C-84.3, to ensure that all final examinations for the fall semester are administered to students prior to December 31 of the school year. The remote instruction days or hours used as part of the pilot shall be in addition to any days or hours authorized by G.S. 115C-84.3(b).

SECTION 7.61.(b) Each participating local board of education shall, beginning July 15, 2024, and ending July 15, 2028, annually report the following to the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

(1) The high schools that participated in the pilot.

(2) A copy of the high school calendars that designate remote instruction time.

(3) The methods for providing instruction outside of the school facility.

(4) The impact on academic outcomes for students in comparison to the recent years where final examinations for the fall semester were administered after December 31.

(5) Identified advantages to using the pilot calendar and additional remote learning.

(6) Identified disadvantages to using the pilot calendar and additional remote learning.

SECTION 7.61.(c) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually summarize the information provided by the participating local boards of education and provide a report of that information, including a copy of each participating local board of education's report, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee beginning September 15, 2024, and ending September 15, 2028.

SPARKNC PILOT FOR HIGH-TECH LEARNING ACCELERATOR CREDIT

SECTION 7.62.(a) There is established the SparkNC Pilot Program (Program) for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. The pilot program authorizes SparkNC, a North Carolina nonprofit corporation, in partnership with selected public school units, to develop a nontraditional, student-driven pathway through which students may select and complete modular learning experiences that, when aggregated, will provide a competency-based equivalency to a traditional elective course credit. SparkNC shall provide a menu of modular learning experiences that include opportunities for work-based learning. The competency-based elective credit shall be denoted on student transcripts as High-Tech Learning Accelerator and focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

SECTION 7.62.(b) Each public school unit partnering with SparkNC in accordance with this section (partnering public school units) shall enter a memorandum of understanding with SparkNC to meet certain requirements for the Program. These requirements shall include the provision of a physical learning lab staffed by a learning lab facilitator that will provide a site for collaborative learning and virtual networking. Learning lab facilitators shall facilitate interdistrict instruction, provide student advising, design learning experiences, coordinate with industry partners, and validate student work.

SECTION 7.62.(c) Partnering public school units shall award the elective credit in High-Tech Learning Accelerator to any student who completes a combination of modules determined by SparkNC to provide the competency-based elective credit in that course upon verification of successful completion of the learning experiences and integrity of student work products by the learning lab facilitator. The elective credit shall be denoted as achieved mastery on the student's transcript. A student's participation in modules but failure to earn elective credit shall not be denoted as a fail on the student's transcript.

SECTION 7.62.(d) The following provisions shall apply to the Program:

- (1) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-295, learning lab facilitators shall not be required to hold teacher licensure but shall meet the standards established by the memorandum of understanding. Learning lab facilitators shall be the teacher of record for students enrolled in the Program. Additional non-licensed personnel may be contracted with on a full- or part-time basis for the purpose of providing timely, real-world content, industry expertise, and student learning experiences. Learning lab facilitators and contract personnel with the Program shall be subject to the requirements of Part 6 of Article 22 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes (Criminal History Checks).
- (2) For the purposes of student participation in the Program, the requirements of Part 2 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes (Calendar) shall not apply. Students may continue to participate in the Program and aggregate learning experiences throughout the time the student is enrolled in the public school unit and shall not be limited to a semester or school year. Learning experiences may be provided to students in person, remotely, or through asynchronous modules.
- (3) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-316 or any other law to the contrary, public school units shall not be required to pay learning lab facilitators in accordance to the salary schedule used for other teachers employed by the public school unit.
- (4) If a course in computer science is required for high school graduation, completion of the competency-based elective credit of High-Tech Learning Accelerator shall be deemed to satisfy that requirement.

SECTION 7.62.(e) For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, the following public school units may partner with SparkNC to participate in the Program:

- (1) Asheboro City Schools

- 1 (2) Cabarrus County Schools
- 2 (3) Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
- 3 (4) Chatham County Schools
- 4 (5) Cumberland County Schools
- 5 (6) Edgecombe County Schools
- 6 (7) Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools
- 7 (8) Granville County Schools
- 8 (9) Guilford County Schools
- 9 (10) Lexington City Schools
- 10 (11) Mt. Airy City Schools
- 11 (12) New Hanover County Schools
- 12 (13) Rockingham County Schools
- 13 (14) Rowan-Salisbury Schools
- 14 (15) Scotland County Schools
- 15 (16) Vance County Schools
- 16 (17) Wake County Public School System
- 17 (18) Warren County Schools

18 **SECTION 7.62.(f)** For the 2024-2025 school year, SparkNC may select up to 10
19 additional public school units to partner with for the Program.

20 **SECTION 7.62.(g)** SparkNC, in consultation with the partnering public school units,
21 shall provide an interim report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March
22 1, 2025, on the following information, disaggregated for each public school unit by grade level
23 and school, when possible:

- 24 (1) Number and percentage of student participation in the Program.
- 25 (2) Student retention and persistence in the Program.
- 26 (3) Student completion of the High-Tech Learning Accelerator elective credit.
- 27 (4) Student evaluation of the Program.
- 28 (5) Student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
29 following participation in the Program.
- 30 (6) Cost per student for Program participation.
- 31 (7) Public school unit persistence in the Program.
- 32 (8) Recommendations for Program changes, including recommended legislative
33 changes.

34 **SECTION 7.62.(h)** SparkNC, in consultation with the partnering public school units,
35 shall provide a final report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 1,
36 2026, on the following information, disaggregated for each public school unit by grade level and
37 school, when possible:

- 38 (1) Number and percentage of student participation in the Program.
- 39 (2) Student retention and persistence in the Program.
- 40 (3) Student completion of the High-Tech Learning Accelerator elective credit.
- 41 (4) Student evaluation of the Program.
- 42 (5) Student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
43 following participation in the Program.
- 44 (6) Cost per student for Program participation.
- 45 (7) Public school unit persistence in the Program.
- 46 (8) Recommendations for Program changes, including recommended legislative
47 changes.
- 48 (9) Recommendations on development of a mastery transcript.
- 49

50 **EXTENDED LEARNING AND INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS COMPETITIVE**
51 **GRANT PROGRAM**

1 **SECTION 7.63.(a)** Of the funds appropriated by this act for the At-Risk Student
2 Services Alternative School Allotment for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the Department of
3 Public Instruction shall use up to seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year
4 and up to seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year for the Extended
5 Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program (Program). Of these funds,
6 the Department of Public Instruction may use up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for
7 each fiscal year to administer the Program.

8 **SECTION 7.63.(b)** The purpose of the Program is to fund high-quality,
9 independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for
10 at-risk students that raise standards for student academic outcomes by focusing on the following:

- 11 (1) Use of an evidence-based model with a proven track record of success.
- 12 (2) Inclusion of rigorous, quantitative performance measures to confirm
13 effectiveness of the program.
- 14 (3) Deployment of multiple tiered supports in schools to address student barriers
15 to achievement, such as strategies to improve chronic absenteeism, antisocial
16 behaviors, academic growth, and enhancement of parent and family
17 engagement.
- 18 (4) Alignment with State performance measures, student academic goals, and the
19 North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- 20 (5) Prioritization in programs to integrate clear academic content, in particular,
21 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning
22 opportunities or reading development and proficiency instruction.
- 23 (6) Minimization of student class size when providing instruction or instructional
24 supports and interventions.
- 25 (7) Expansion of student access to high-quality learning activities and academic
26 support that strengthen student engagement and leverage community-based
27 resources, which may include organizations that provide mentoring services
28 and private-sector employer involvement.
- 29 (8) Utilization of digital content to expand learning time, when appropriate.

30 **SECTION 7.63.(c)** Grants shall be used to award funds for new or existing eligible
31 programs for at-risk students operated by (i) nonprofit corporations and (ii) nonprofit
32 corporations working in collaboration with local school administrative units. Grant participants
33 are eligible to receive grants for up to two years in an amount of up to five hundred thousand
34 dollars (\$500,000) each year. Programs should focus on serving (i) at-risk students not
35 performing at grade level as demonstrated by statewide assessments, (ii) students at risk of
36 dropout, and (iii) students at risk of school displacement due to suspension or expulsion as
37 a result of antisocial behaviors. Priority consideration shall be given to applications demonstrating
38 models that focus services and programs in schools that are identified as low-performing pursuant
39 to G.S. 115C-105.37.

40 A grant participant shall provide certification to the Department of Public Instruction
41 that the grants received under the Program shall be matched on the basis of three dollars (\$3.00)
42 in grant funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in nongrant funds. Matching funds shall not include
43 other State funds. The Department shall also give priority consideration to an applicant that is a
44 nonprofit corporation working in partnership with a local school administrative unit resulting in
45 a match utilizing federal funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education
46 Act of 1965, as amended, or Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and other
47 federal or local funds. Matching funds may include in-kind contributions for up to fifty percent
48 (50%) of the required match.

49 **SECTION 7.63.(d)** A nonprofit corporation may act as its own fiscal agent for the
50 purposes of this Program. Grant recipients shall report to the Department of Public Instruction
51 for the year in which grant funds were expended on the progress of the Program, including

1 alignment with State academic standards, data collection for reporting student progress, the
2 source and amount of matching funds, and other measures, before receiving funding for the next
3 fiscal year. Grant recipients shall also submit a final report on key performance data, including
4 statewide test results, attendance rates, graduation rates, and promotion rates, and financial
5 sustainability of the Program.

6 **SECTION 7.63.(e)** The Department of Public Instruction shall provide an interim
7 report on the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by September 15,
8 2024, with a final report on the Program by September 15, 2025. The final report shall include
9 the final results of the Program and recommendations regarding effective program models,
10 standards, and performance measures based on student performance, leveraging of
11 community-based resources to expand student access to learning activities, academic and
12 behavioral support services, and potential opportunities for the State to invest in proven models
13 for future grant programs.

14 **PROHIBITION AGAINST "THREE-CUEING"**

15 **SECTION 7.64.(a)** G.S. 115C-83.3 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
16 "(9a) "Three-cueing system" means a model of teaching students to read based on
17 meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues, also known as "MSV."

18 **SECTION 7.64.(b)** G.S. 115C-83.4B is amended by adding a new subsection to
19 read:

20 "(c) The Early Literacy Program shall not use a three-cueing system, as defined in
21 G.S. 115C-83.3(9a), or a curriculum with visual memory as the primary basis for teaching word
22 recognition in any instruction or intervention provided to students in an NC Pre-K program."

23 **SECTION 7.64.(c)** Part 1A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is
24 amended by adding a new section to read:

25 **"§ 115C-83.12. Prohibition against three-cueing system model of teaching students to read.**

26 Local school administrative units shall not use a three-cueing system or a curriculum with
27 visual memory as the primary basis for teaching word recognition in any instruction or
28 intervention provided to students in grades kindergarten through three."

29 **SECTION 7.64.(d)** G.S. 115C-150.12C is amended by adding a new subdivision to
30 read:

31 "(3a) Literacy instruction. – The board of trustees shall ensure that a three-cueing
32 system, as defined in G.S. 115C-83.3(9a), or a curriculum with visual memory
33 as the primary basis for teaching word recognition is not used in any
34 instruction or intervention provided to students in grades kindergarten through
35 three."

36 **SECTION 7.64.(e)** G.S. 115C-218.85(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision
37 to read:

38 "(5) The charter school shall not use a three-cueing system, as defined in
39 G.S. 115C-83.3(9a), or a curriculum with visual memory as the primary basis
40 for teaching word recognition in any instruction or intervention provided to
41 students in grades kindergarten through three."

42 **SECTION 7.64.(f)** G.S. 116-239.8(b)(2) is amended by adding a new
43 sub-subdivision to read:

44 "e. The chancellor shall ensure that a three-cueing system, as defined in
45 G.S. 115C-83.3(9a), or a curriculum with visual memory as the
46 primary basis for teaching word recognition is not used in any
47 instruction or intervention provided to students in grades kindergarten
48 through three."

49 **SECTION 7.64.(g)** G.S. 115C-269.20(a)(2)a1. reads as rewritten:
50

1 "a1. Coursework in the Science or Reading, as defined in G.S. 115C-83.3.
2 This coursework shall not include preparation to use a three-cueing
3 system, as defined in G.S. 115C-83.3(9a), or a curriculum with visual
4 memory as the primary basis for teaching word recognition to students
5 in grades kindergarten through three."

6 **SECTION 7.64.(h)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies
7 beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

8
9 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUNDS NOT**
10 **TO REVERT**

11 **SECTION 7.65.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, funds
12 appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction for professional development associated
13 with the Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act shall not revert to the General Fund but
14 shall remain available for the purposes for which they were appropriated until June 30, 2024.

15
16 **SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR TEACHERS IN ADVANCED TEACHING ROLES**
17 **SCHOOLS**

18 **SECTION 7.66.** Article 20 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
19 adding a new section to read:

20 **"§ 115C-312. Salary supplements for teachers in Advanced Teaching Roles schools.**

21 (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

22 (1) Adult leadership teacher. – A teacher who meets the following criteria:

23 a. Works in the classroom providing instruction for at least thirty percent
24 (30%) of the instructional day.

25 b. Leads a team of between three and eight teachers.

26 c. Shares responsibility for the performance of the students of all teachers
27 on the team identified in sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision.

28 d. Is not a school administrator.

29 (2) Advanced teaching role. – Additional responsibility for a teacher in an
30 Advanced Teaching Roles school, as developed by a local board of education
31 pursuant to G.S. 115C-311.

32 (3) Advanced Teaching Roles unit. – A local school administrative unit with at
33 least one Advanced Teaching Roles school.

34 (4) Classroom excellence teacher. – A teacher who meets the following criteria:

35 a. Is a teacher in an advanced teaching role.

36 b. Assumes and maintains responsibility for at least twenty percent
37 (20%) of additional students as compared to the most recent prior
38 school year in which the teacher did not receive a salary supplement
39 pursuant to this section.

40 c. Is a member of a team of teachers led by an adult leadership teacher
41 pursuant to sub-subdivision b. of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

42 (5) Teacher. – A classroom teacher in an Advanced Teaching Roles school who
43 is not instructional support personnel.

44 (b) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-311, to the extent funds are made available for this
45 purpose, the State Board of Education shall award funds to local school administrative units for
46 annual salary supplements for teachers in accordance with this section. Advanced Teaching Roles
47 units shall designate up to fifteen percent (15%) of the teachers in each Advanced Teaching Roles
48 school as adult leadership teachers and five percent (5%) of the teachers in each Advanced
49 Teaching Roles school as classroom excellence teachers. Advanced Teaching Roles units shall
50 provide salary supplements for those teachers as follows:

51 (1) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for adult leadership teachers.

- 1 (2) Three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for classroom excellence teachers.
- 2 (c) The following additional requirements apply to salary supplements received pursuant
- 3 to this section:
- 4 (1) Loss of a salary supplement received pursuant to this section for any reason
- 5 shall not be considered a demotion under Part 3 of Article 22 of Chapter 115C
- 6 of the General Statutes.
- 7 (2) A teacher is eligible to continue receiving a salary supplement pursuant to this
- 8 section as long as he or she remains an adult leadership teacher or a classroom
- 9 excellence teacher.
- 10 (3) A teacher is eligible to receive no more than one annual salary supplement
- 11 pursuant to this section at any time."

ADVANCED TEACHING ROLES/NEW HANOVER COUNTY

SECTION 7.67. Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-311, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the State Board of Education shall authorize New Hanover County Schools to participate in the Advanced Teaching Roles Program (Program) and, to the extent funds are available in the Program, award State funds to New Hanover County Schools for an initial term, if the following occur:

- 19 (1) New Hanover County Schools submits a proposal to participate in the
- 20 Program by July 1, 2023.
- 21 (2) The proposal submitted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section is consistent
- 22 with the requirements of G.S. 115C-311(b).

PART VII-A. COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE

SECTION 7A.1.(a) The following monthly teacher salary schedule shall apply for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to licensed personnel of the public schools who are classified as teachers. The salary schedule is based on years of teaching experience.

2023-2024 Teacher Monthly Salary Schedule

Years of Experience	"A" Teachers
0	\$3,900
1	\$4,000
2	\$4,100
3	\$4,200
4	\$4,300
5	\$4,400
6	\$4,480
7	\$4,560
8	\$4,640
9	\$4,720
10	\$4,800
11	\$4,880
12	\$4,960
13	\$5,040
14	\$5,120
15-24	\$5,220
25+	\$5,420

SECTION 7A.1.(b) Salary Supplements for Teachers Paid on This Salary Schedule.

- 1 (1) Licensed teachers who have NBPTS certification shall receive a salary
2 supplement each month of twelve percent (12%) of their monthly salary on
3 the "A" salary schedule.
- 4 (2) Licensed teachers who are classified as "M" teachers shall receive a salary
5 supplement each month of ten percent (10%) of their monthly salary on the
6 "A" salary schedule.
- 7 (3) Licensed teachers with licensure based on academic preparation at the
8 six-year degree level shall receive a salary supplement of one hundred
9 twenty-six dollars (\$126.00) per month in addition to the supplement provided
10 to them as "M" teachers.
- 11 (4) Licensed teachers with licensure based on academic preparation at the
12 doctoral degree level shall receive a salary supplement of two hundred
13 fifty-three dollars (\$253.00) per month in addition to the supplement provided
14 to them as "M" teachers.
- 15 (5) Certified school nurses shall receive a salary supplement each month of ten
16 percent (10%) of their monthly salary on the "A" salary schedule.
- 17 (6) School counselors who are licensed as counselors at the master's degree level
18 or higher shall receive a salary supplement each month of one hundred dollars
19 (\$100.00).

20 **SECTION 7A.1.(c)** For school psychologists, school speech pathologists who are
21 licensed as speech pathologists at the master's degree level or higher, and school audiologists
22 who are licensed as audiologists at the master's degree level or higher, the following shall apply:

- 23 (1) The first step of the salary schedule shall be equivalent to the sixth step of the
24 "A" salary schedule.
- 25 (2) These employees shall receive the following salary supplements each month:
26 a. Ten percent (10%) of their monthly salary, excluding the supplement
27 provided pursuant to sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision.
28 b. Three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00).
- 29 (3) These employees are eligible to receive salary supplements equivalent to those
30 of teachers for academic preparation at the six-year degree level or the
31 doctoral degree level.
- 32 (4) The twenty-sixth step of the salary schedule shall be seven and one-half
33 percent (7.5%) higher than the salary received by these same employees on
34 the twenty-fifth step of the salary schedule.

35 **SECTION 7A.1.(d)** Beginning with the 2014-2015 fiscal year, in lieu of providing
36 annual longevity payments to teachers paid on the teacher salary schedule, the amounts of those
37 longevity payments are included in the monthly amounts under the teacher salary schedule.

38 **SECTION 7A.1.(e)** A teacher compensated in accordance with this salary schedule
39 for the 2023-2024 school year shall receive an amount equal to the greater of the following:

- 40 (1) The applicable amount on the salary schedule for the applicable school year.
- 41 (2) For teachers who were eligible for longevity for the 2013-2014 school year,
42 the sum of the following:
 - 43 a. The salary the teacher received in the 2013-2014 school year pursuant
44 to Section 35.11 of S.L. 2013-360.
 - 45 b. The longevity that the teacher would have received under the longevity
46 system in effect for the 2013-2014 school year provided in Section
47 35.11 of S.L. 2013-360 based on the teacher's current years of service.
 - 48 c. The annual bonus provided in Section 9.1(e) of S.L. 2014-100.
- 49 (3) For teachers who were not eligible for longevity for the 2013-2014 school
50 year, the sum of the salary and annual bonus the teacher received in the
51 2014-2015 school year pursuant to Section 9.1 of S.L. 2014-100.

- 1 b. Taught one or more students who attained approved industry
2 certifications or credentials consistent with G.S. 115C-156.2.
- 3 (3) Eligible growth teacher. – A teacher who meets at least one of the following
4 criteria:
- 5 a. Is employed by, or retired having last held a position at, a qualifying
6 public school unit and meets one of the following criteria:
- 7 1. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the State
8 according to the EVAAS student growth index score for third
9 grade reading from the previous school year.
- 10 2. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the State
11 according to the EVAAS student growth index score for fourth
12 or fifth grade reading from the previous school year.
- 13 3. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the State
14 according to the EVAAS student growth index score for fourth,
15 fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade mathematics from the
16 previous school year.
- 17 b. Is employed by, or retired having last held a position at, a local school
18 administrative unit and meets one of the following criteria:
- 19 1. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the
20 teacher's respective local school administrative unit according
21 to the EVAAS student growth index score for third grade
22 reading from the previous school year.
- 23 2. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the
24 teacher's respective local school administrative unit according
25 to the EVAAS student growth index score for fourth or fifth
26 grade reading from the previous school year.
- 27 3. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the
28 teacher's respective local school administrative unit according
29 to the EVAAS student growth index score for fourth, fifth,
30 sixth, seventh, or eighth grade mathematics from the previous
31 school year.
- 32 c. Was employed by a local school administrative unit that employed in
33 the previous school year three or fewer total teachers in that teacher's
34 grade level as long as the teacher has an EVAAS student growth index
35 score from the previous school year of exceeded expected growth in
36 one of the following subject areas:
- 37 1. Third grade reading.
- 38 2. Fourth or fifth grade reading.
- 39 3. Fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade mathematics.
- 40 (4) EVAAS. – The Education Value-Added Assessment System.
- 41 (5) Qualifying public school unit. – Any of the following:
- 42 a. A local school administrative unit.
- 43 b. A charter school.
- 44 c. A regional school.
- 45 d. A school providing elementary or secondary instruction operated by
46 The University of North Carolina under Article 29A of Chapter 116 of
47 the General Statutes.
- 48 (6) Qualifying teacher. – An eligible teacher who meets one of the following
49 criteria:
- 50 a. Remains employed teaching in the same qualifying public school unit,
51 or, if an eligible advanced course teacher is only employed by the

1 North Carolina Virtual Public School program, remains employed
2 teaching in that program, at least from the school year the data is
3 collected until January 1 of the corresponding school year that the
4 bonus is paid.

5 b. Retired, between the last day of the school year in which the data is
6 collected and January 1 of the corresponding school year in which the
7 bonus is paid, after attaining one of the following:

- 8 1. The age of at least 65 with five years of creditable service.
- 9 2. The age of at least 60 with 25 years of creditable service.
- 10 3. Thirty years of creditable service.

11 **SECTION 7A.3.(c) Advanced Course Bonuses.** – A bonus in the amount of fifty
12 dollars (\$50.00) shall be provided to qualifying advanced course teachers for each student taught
13 in each advanced course who receives the following score:

- 14 (1) For Advanced Placement courses, a score of three or higher on the College
15 Board Advanced Placement Examination.
- 16 (2) For International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses, a score of four
17 or higher on the International Baccalaureate course examination.
- 18 (3) For the Cambridge AICE program, a score of "C" or higher on the Cambridge
19 AICE program examinations.

20 **SECTION 7A.3.(d) CTE Bonuses.** – For qualifying career and technical education
21 teachers, bonuses shall be provided in the following amounts:

- 22 (1) A bonus in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each student taught
23 by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of
24 an industry certification or credential with a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) value
25 ranking as determined under subsection (e) of this section.
- 26 (2) A bonus in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each student taught by a
27 teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of an
28 industry certification or credential with a fifty dollar (\$50.00) value ranking
29 as determined under subsection (e) of this section.

30 **SECTION 7A.3.(e) CTE Course Value Ranking.** – The Department of Commerce,
31 in consultation with the State Board, shall assign a value ranking for each industry certification
32 and credential based on academic rigor and employment value in accordance with this subsection.
33 Fifty percent (50%) of the ranking shall be based on academic rigor and the remaining fifty
34 percent (50%) on employment value. Academic rigor and employment value shall be based on
35 the following elements:

- 36 (1) Academic rigor shall be based on the number of instructional hours, including
37 work experience or internship hours, required to earn the industry certification
38 or credential, with extra weight given for coursework that also provides
39 community college credit.
- 40 (2) Employment value shall be based on the entry wage, growth rate in
41 employment for each occupational category, and average annual openings for
42 the primary occupation linked with the industry certification or credential.

43 **SECTION 7A.3.(f) Statewide Growth Bonuses.** – Of the funds appropriated in this
44 act for the program, bonuses shall be provided to qualifying teachers who are eligible teachers
45 under sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, as follows:

- 46 (1) The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) shall be allocated for bonuses to
47 eligible teachers under sub-sub-subdivision a.1. of subdivision (3) of
48 subsection (b) of this section. These funds shall be distributed equally among
49 qualifying teachers.

1 (2) A bonus in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) shall be awarded to
2 each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision
3 a.2. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

4 (3) A bonus in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) shall be awarded to
5 each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision
6 a.3. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

7 **SECTION 7A.3.(g) Local Growth Bonuses.** – Of the funds appropriated in this act
8 for the program, bonuses shall be provided to eligible teachers under sub-subdivisions b. and c.
9 of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, as follows:

10 (1) The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) shall be allocated for bonuses to
11 eligible EVAAS teachers under sub-sub-subdivisions b.1. and c.1. of
12 subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section. These funds shall be divided
13 proportionally based on average daily membership in third grade for each
14 local school administrative unit and then distributed equally among qualifying
15 third grade reading teachers in each local school administrative unit.

16 (2) A bonus in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) shall be awarded to
17 each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision
18 b.2. or c.2. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

19 (3) A bonus in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) shall be awarded to
20 each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision
21 b.3. or c.3. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

22 **SECTION 7A.3.(h) Limitations and Other Criteria.** – The following additional
23 limitations and other criteria shall apply to the program:

24 (1) Bonus funds awarded to a teacher pursuant to subsection (c), subsection (d),
25 subdivision (1) of subsection (f), and subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this
26 section shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) per
27 subsection or subdivision in any given school year.

28 (2) A qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.1.,
29 b.1., or c.1. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section may receive a
30 bonus under both subdivision (1) of subsection (f) and subdivision (1) of
31 subsection (g) of this section but shall not receive more than seven thousand
32 dollars (\$7,000) pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (f) and subdivision
33 (1) of subsection (g) of this section in any given school year.

34 (3) A qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.2.,
35 b.2., or c.2. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section may receive a
36 bonus under both subdivision (2) of subsection (f) and subdivision (2) of
37 subsection (g) of this section but shall not receive more than two bonuses
38 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (f) and subdivision (2) of subsection
39 (g) of this section in any given school year.

40 (4) A qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.3.,
41 b.3., or c.3. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section may receive a
42 bonus under both subdivision (3) of subsection (f) and subdivision (3) of
43 subsection (g) of this section but shall not receive more than two bonuses
44 pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (f) and subdivision (3) of subsection
45 (g) of this section in any given school year.

46 **SECTION 7A.3.(i) Bonuses Not Compensation.** – Bonuses awarded to a teacher
47 pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher receives
48 or is scheduled to receive. Notwithstanding G.S. 135-1(7a), the bonuses awarded under this
49 section are not compensation under Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes, Retirement
50 System for Teachers and State Employees.

1 **SECTION 7A.3.(j)** Study and Report. – The State Board of Education shall study
2 the effect of the program on teacher performance and retention. The State Board shall report the
3 results of its findings and the amount of bonuses awarded to the President Pro Tempore of the
4 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
5 Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division by March 15 of each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal
6 biennium. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- 7 (1) Number of students enrolled and taking examinations in each of the following
8 categories of courses:
 - 9 a. Advanced Placement.
 - 10 b. International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.
 - 11 c. Cambridge AICE program.
 - 12 d. Courses needed for the attainment of an industry certification or
13 credential.
- 14 (2) Number of students receiving outcomes on examinations resulting in the
15 award of a bonus for a teacher in each category of courses identified in
16 sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- 17 (3) Number of teachers receiving a bonus in each category of courses identified
18 in sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- 19 (4) The amounts awarded to teachers for each category of courses identified in
20 sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- 21 (5) The type of industry certifications and credentials earned by the students, the
22 value ranking for each certification and credential, the number of bonuses
23 earned for each certification or credential, and the total bonus amount awarded
24 for each certification or credential.
- 25 (6) Average bonus amount awarded to each qualifying teacher who is an eligible
26 teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.1., b.1., or c.1. of subdivision (3) of
27 subsection (b) of this section.
- 28 (7) The percentage of teachers who received a bonus pursuant to this section and
29 were eligible to receive a bonus for teaching in the same grade level or course
30 in January 2022 or January 2023, or both, where applicable, pursuant to one
31 of the following programs:
 - 32 a. The Advanced Course and CTE Bonus Program provided in Section
33 7A.4 of S.L. 2021-180.
 - 34 b. The Growth-Based Teacher Bonus Program provided in Section 7A.2
35 of S.L. of 2022-74.
- 36 (8) The percentage of teachers who received a bonus pursuant to this section and
37 received a bonus for teaching in the same grade level or course in either
38 January 2022 or January 2023 pursuant to one of the programs listed in
39 subdivision (7) of this subsection.
- 40 (9) The percentage of teachers who received a bonus pursuant to this section and
41 received a bonus for teaching in the same grade level or course in January
42 2022 or January 2023, or both, where applicable, pursuant to one of the
43 programs listed subdivision (7) of this subsection.
- 44 (10) The statistical relationship between a teacher receiving a bonus in January
45 2024 or 2025 pursuant to this section and receiving a bonus pursuant to a
46 predecessor bonus program. For purposes of this subdivision, the following
47 are predecessor programs:
 - 48 a. Bonuses awarded pursuant to Section 7A.4(c) of S.L. 2021-180 are
49 predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subsection (c) of this
50 section.

- 1 b. Bonuses awarded pursuant to Section 7A.4(d) of S.L. 2021-180 are
2 predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subsection (d) of this
3 section.
4 c. Bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) and
5 subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of Section 7A.2 of S.L. 2022-74 are
6 predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (1) of
7 subsection (f) and subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section.
8 d. Bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) and
9 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of Section 7A.2 of S.L. 2022-74 are
10 predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (2) of
11 subsection (f) and subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section.
12 e. Bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (c)(3) and subdivision (d)(3)
13 of Section 7A.2 of S.L. 2022-74 are predecessors to bonuses awarded
14 pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (f) and subdivision (3) of
15 subsection (g) of this section.
16 (11) The distribution of statewide and local growth bonuses awarded pursuant to
17 this section as among qualifying public school units and, where applicable,
18 schools within those units.
19

20 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR TEACHER COMPENSATION

21 **SECTION 7A.4.(a)** Use of Funds. – For each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium,
22 except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, the State Board of Education shall allocate
23 funds pursuant to this section to eligible local school administrative units to provide salary
24 supplements to teachers and qualifying school administrators in those units. Allocation of salary
25 supplements among teachers and qualifying school administrators within each eligible local
26 school administrative unit, including whether a teacher or qualifying school administrator
27 receives a salary supplement and the amount of the supplement provided to that person, shall be
28 determined in the discretion of the local board of education of the eligible unit, except that no
29 individual salary supplement shall exceed the per teacher funding amount awarded to that unit
30 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of this section.

31 **SECTION 7A.4.(b)** Definitions. – As used in this section, the following definitions
32 shall apply:

- 33 (1) Adjusted market value of taxable real property. – A county's assessed taxable
34 real property value, using the latest available data published by the
35 Department of Revenue, divided by the county's sales assessment ratio
36 determined under G.S. 105-289(h).
37 (2) County allocation factor. – For each eligible county, the supplement factor for
38 that county divided by the sum of all supplement factors for the State.
39 (3) Eligible county. – A county that has an adjusted market value of taxable real
40 property of less than forty-three billion seven hundred million dollars
41 (\$43,700,000,000).
42 (4) Eligible local school administrative unit. – A local school administrative unit
43 located in whole or in part in an eligible county.
44 (5) Eligible school. – A public school that is located in an eligible county and
45 governed by a local school administrative unit.
46 (6) Maintenance of effort amount. – For each local school administrative unit in
47 each fiscal year, the supplant factor from the prior fiscal year multiplied by
48 the amount of non-State funds expended for salary supplements.
49 (7) Qualifying school administrator. – Any of the following:
50 a. Assistant principals paid pursuant to G.S. 115C-285(a)(8).
51 b. Principals paid pursuant to G.S. 115C-285(a)(8a).

- 1 (8) Supplant factor. – For each local school administrative unit in each fiscal year,
2 the total non-State funds expended for salary supplements divided by the total
3 State and non-State funds expended for salaries.
- 4 (9) Supplement factor. – For each eligible county, the taxable real property factor
5 multiplied by the number of State-funded teachers employed in a school in the
6 county that is governed by a local school administrative unit.
- 7 (10) Taxable real property factor. – For each eligible county, the median adjusted
8 market value of taxable real property in the State divided by the adjusted
9 market value of taxable real property for that county.
- 10 (11) Teacher. – Teachers and instructional support personnel.

11 **SECTION 7A.4.(c)** Allocation of Funds. – The State Board of Education shall
12 allocate funds for salary supplements to eligible local school administrative units according to
13 the following procedure:

- 14 (1) County allocation. – For each eligible county, the State Board shall determine
15 a county allocation by multiplying the county allocation factor for that county
16 by the funding amount appropriated pursuant to this section for the applicable
17 fiscal year.
- 18 (2) Per teacher funding amount. – For each eligible county, the State Board shall
19 determine a per teacher funding amount by dividing the county allocation
20 amounts determined pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection by the total
21 number of State-funded teachers employed in all eligible schools in that
22 county.
- 23 (3) Unit funding amount. – For each eligible local school administrative unit, the
24 State Board shall determine the funding amount for that unit based on the per
25 teacher funding amount or amounts for the eligible county or counties where
26 the unit is located. For each county with an eligible school governed by the
27 unit, the State Board shall multiply the applicable per teacher funding amount
28 for that county determined pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection by
29 the number of State-funded teachers employed in the eligible school in that
30 county. If the unit is located in multiple eligible counties, the State Board shall
31 aggregate those amounts.
- 32 (4) Allocation and funding cap. – The State Board shall allocate the amount
33 determined pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection to each eligible local
34 school administrative unit for each applicable fiscal year, up to a maximum of
35 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per State-funded teacher.

36 **SECTION 7A.4.(d)** Charter Schools. – Funds appropriated to the Department of
37 Public Instruction pursuant to this section shall be subject to the allocation of funds for charter
38 schools described in G.S. 115C-218.105. The General Assembly encourages charter schools
39 receiving funds pursuant to this section to provide salary supplements to teachers and qualifying
40 school administrators in the charter school in accordance with the requirements of this section.

41 **SECTION 7A.4.(e)** Formula for Distribution of Supplemental Funding Pursuant to
42 this Section Only. – The formula in this section is solely a basis for distribution of supplemental
43 funding to eligible local school administrative units and is not intended to reflect any measure of
44 the adequacy of the educational program or funding for public schools. The formula is also not
45 intended to reflect any commitment by the General Assembly to appropriate any additional
46 supplemental funds for eligible local school administrative units.

47 **SECTION 7A.4.(f)** Nonsupplant Requirement. – A local school administrative unit
48 that receives funds under this section shall use the funds to supplement and not supplant non-State
49 funds provided for salary supplements for teachers and qualifying school administrators. The
50 State Board of Education shall not allocate any funds under this section to a local school
51 administrative unit if the State Board finds that the unit has reduced the average salary

1 supplement the unit provided to teachers or qualifying school administrators from non-State
 2 funds in the prior school year, or the year for which the most recent data are available, as a result
 3 of funding provided pursuant to this section or Section 7A.12 of S.L. 2021-180, if all of the
 4 following criteria apply for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium:

- 5 (1) If the amount of non-State funds expended for salary supplements was less
 6 than ninety-five percent (95%) of the maintenance of effort amount for the
 7 local school administrative unit.
- 8 (2) The local school administrative unit cannot show (i) that it has remedied the
 9 deficiency in funding or (ii) that extraordinary circumstances caused the unit
 10 to supplant non-State funds with funds allocated under Section 7A.12 of S.L.
 11 2021-180.

12 **SECTION 7A.4.(g) Reports.** – No later than April 15 of each year of the 2023-2025
 13 fiscal biennium, the State Board of Education shall report the following information for the
 14 applicable fiscal year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate
 15 Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations
 16 Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division:

- 17 (1) A list of all eligible counties and eligible local school administrative units.
- 18 (2) Funds allocated to each eligible local school administrative unit.
- 19 (3) The percentage and amount of teachers and qualifying school administrators
 20 in each eligible local school administrative unit receiving salary supplements.
- 21 (4) The average salary supplement amount in each eligible local school
 22 administrative unit.
- 23 (5) The range of salary supplement amounts in each eligible local school
 24 administrative unit.
- 25 (6) The effect of the salary supplements on the retention of teachers and
 26 qualifying school administrators in eligible local school administrative units.
- 27 (7) The identity of any local school administrative unit that the State Board
 28 determines has supplanted funds.

30 **SMALL COUNTY AND LOW-WEALTH SIGNING BONUS FOR TEACHERS**

31 **SECTION 7A.5.(a)** Article 20 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended
 32 by adding a new section to read:

33 **"§ 115C-302.8. Small county and low-wealth signing bonus.**

34 (a) **Definitions.** – For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- 35 (1) **Eligible employee.** – A person who meets all of the following criteria:
 36 a. **Accepts employment as a teacher with an eligible employer.**
 37 b. **Was not employed by the eligible employer identified in**
 38 **sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision in the prior fiscal year.**
 39 c. **Is employed by the eligible employer identified in sub-subdivision a.**
 40 **of this subdivision as of October 1 of the school year for which the**
 41 **teacher accepts employment.**
- 42 (2) **Eligible employer.** – The governing board of a local school administrative unit
 43 **that receives at least one of the following in the year in which the teacher**
 44 **accepts employment pursuant to sub-subdivision c. of subdivision (1) of this**
 45 **subsection:**
 46 a. **Small county school system supplemental funding.**
 47 b. **Supplemental funding for local school administrative units in**
 48 **low-wealth counties.**
- 49 (3) **Local funds.** – Matching funds provided by an eligible employer to enable an
 50 **eligible employee to qualify for the signing bonus program established by this**
 51 **section.**

(4) Teacher. – Teachers and instructional support personnel.
 (b) Signing Bonus Program. – To the extent funds are provided for this purpose, the Department of Public Instruction shall establish and administer a signing bonus program for teachers. Signing bonuses shall be provided each school year to all eligible employees who are employed by an eligible employer as long as they are matched on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) in State funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in local funds, up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in State funds.

(c) Limited Exclusion from Future Signing Bonuses. – A teacher who receives a signing bonus pursuant to this section is ineligible to receive another signing bonus pursuant to this section or a similar enactment of the General Assembly for at least two full school years. This section shall not apply to any legislatively mandated bonuses received by teachers that are not signing bonuses.

(d) Bonuses as Additions. – The bonuses awarded pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus a teacher receives or is scheduled to receive.

(e) Not for Retirement. – Notwithstanding G.S. 135-1(7a), the bonuses awarded pursuant to this section are not compensation under Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes, Retirement System for Teachers and State Employees."

SECTION 7A.5.(b) This section applies beginning with eligible employees who accept employment as a teacher with an eligible employer for the 2023-2024 school year.

PRINCIPAL SALARY SCHEDULE

SECTION 7A.6.(a) The following annual salary schedule for principals shall apply for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023:

2023-2024 Principal Annual Salary Schedule

Avg. Daily Membership	Base	Met Growth	Exceeded Growth
0-200	\$74,437	\$81,880	\$89,324
201-400	\$78,158	\$85,974	\$93,790
401-700	\$81,880	\$90,068	\$98,257
701-1,000	\$85,602	\$94,162	\$102,722
1,001-1,600	\$89,324	\$98,257	\$107,188
1,601+	\$93,045	\$102,350	\$111,654

A principal's placement on the salary schedule shall be determined according to the average daily membership of the school supervised by the principal, as described in subsection (b) of this section, and the school growth scores, calculated pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.15(c), for each school the principal supervised in one or more prior school years, as described in subsection (c) of this section, regardless of a break in service, and provided the principal supervised each school as a principal for at least a majority of the school year, as follows:

- (1) A principal shall be paid according to the Exceeded Growth column of the schedule as follows:
 - a. Between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, if the school growth score shows the school exceeded expected growth.
 - b. Between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024, if the higher school growth score in one of the two prior school years shows that the school exceeded expected growth.
- (2) A principal shall be paid according to the Met Growth column of the schedule as follows:
 - a. Between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, if the school growth score shows the school met expected growth or the principal supervised a school in the prior school year that was not eligible to receive a school growth score.

- 1 b. Between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024, if any of the following
2 apply:
3 1. The higher school growth score in one of the two prior school
4 years shows that the school met expected growth.
5 2. The principal supervised a school in the two prior school years
6 that was not eligible to receive a school growth score.
- 7 (3) A principal shall be paid according to the Base column, as follows:
8 a. Between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, if the school growth
9 score shows the school did not meet expected growth or the principal
10 has not supervised any school as a principal for a majority of the prior
11 school year.
12 b. Between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024, if any of the following
13 apply:
14 1. The school growth scores from the two prior school years show
15 that the school did not meet expected growth in both years.
16 2. The principal has not supervised any school as a principal for
17 a majority of the two prior school years.

18 **SECTION 7A.6.(b)** For purposes of determining the average daily membership of a
19 principal's school, the following shall apply:

- 20 (1) The following amounts shall be used during the following time periods:
21 a. Between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, the average daily
22 membership for the school from the 2022-2023 school year. If the
23 school did not have an average daily membership in the 2022-2023
24 school year, the projected average daily membership for the school for
25 the 2023-2024 school year.
26 b. Between January 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, the average daily
27 membership for the school for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 28 (2) The average daily membership of a principal's school shall include the average
29 daily membership of any prekindergarten students in membership at the
30 school.

31 **SECTION 7A.6.(c)** For purposes of determining the school growth scores for each
32 school the principal supervised in one or more prior school years, the following school growth
33 scores shall be used during the following time periods:

- 34 (1) Between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, the school growth score from
35 the 2021-2022 school year.
36 (2) Between January 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, the school growth scores from
37 the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

38 **SECTION 7A.6.(d)** Beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year, in lieu of providing
39 annual longevity payments to principals paid on the principal salary schedule, the amounts of
40 those longevity payments are included in the annual amounts under the principal salary schedule.

41 **SECTION 7A.6.(e)** A principal compensated in accordance with this section for the
42 2023-2024 fiscal year shall receive an amount equal to the greater of the following:

- 43 (1) The applicable amount on the salary schedule for the applicable year.
44 (2) For principals who were eligible for longevity in the 2016-2017 fiscal year,
45 the sum of the following:
46 a. The salary the principal received in the 2016-2017 fiscal year pursuant
47 to Section 9.1 or Section 9.2 of S.L. 2016-94.
48 b. The longevity that the principal would have received as provided for
49 State employees under the North Carolina Human Resources Act for
50 the 2016-2017 fiscal year based on the principal's current years of
51 service.

(3) For principals who were not eligible for longevity in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the salary the principal received in the 2016-2017 fiscal year pursuant to Section 9.1 or Section 9.2 of S.L. 2016-94.

SECTION 7A.6.(f) It is the intent of the General Assembly to implement the following annual salary schedule for principals for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2024:

2024-2025 Principal Annual Salary Schedule

Avg. Daily Membership	Base	Met Growth	Exceeded Growth
0-200	\$76,298	\$83,927	\$91,557
201-400	\$80,112	\$88,123	\$96,135
401-700	\$83,927	\$92,320	\$100,713
701-1,000	\$87,742	\$96,516	\$105,290
1,001-1,600	\$91,557	\$100,713	\$109,868
1,601+	\$95,371	\$104,909	\$114,445

BONUSES FOR PRINCIPALS

SECTION 7A.7.(a) The Department of Public Instruction shall administer a bonus in the 2023-2024 fiscal year to any principal who supervised a school as a principal for a majority of the previous school year if that school was in the top fifty percent (50%) of school growth in the State during the previous school year, calculated by the State Board pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.15(c), as follows:

2023-2024 Principal Bonus Schedule

Statewide Growth Percentage	Bonus
Top 5%	\$15,000
Top 10%	\$10,000
Top 15%	\$5,000
Top 20%	\$2,500
Top 50%	\$1,000

A principal shall receive no more than one bonus pursuant to this subsection. The bonus shall be paid at the highest amount for which the principal qualifies.

SECTION 7A.7.(b) The bonus awarded pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the principal receives or is scheduled to receive.

SECTION 7A.7.(c) Notwithstanding G.S. 135-1(7a), the bonuses awarded pursuant to this section are not compensation under Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes, Retirement System for Teachers and State Employees.

SECTION 7A.7.(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that funds provided pursuant to this section will supplement principal compensation and not supplant local funds.

SECTION 7A.7.(e) The bonus provided pursuant to this section shall be paid no later than October 31, 2023, to qualifying principals employed as of October 1, 2023.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SALARIES

SECTION 7A.8.(a) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023, assistant principals shall receive a monthly salary based on the salary schedule for teachers who are classified as "A" teachers plus nineteen percent (19%). An assistant principal shall be placed on the step on the salary schedule that reflects the total number of years of experience as a certified employee of the public schools. For purposes of this section, an administrator with a one-year provisional assistant principal's certificate shall be considered equivalent to an assistant principal.

SECTION 7A.8.(b) Assistant principals with certification based on academic preparation at the six-year degree level shall be paid a salary supplement of one hundred twenty-six dollars (\$126.00) per month and at the doctoral degree level shall be paid a salary supplement of two hundred fifty-three dollars (\$253.00) per month.

1 **SECTION 7A.8.(c)** Participants in an approved full-time master's in school
 2 administration program shall receive up to a 10-month stipend during the internship period of the
 3 master's program. The stipend shall be at the beginning salary of an assistant principal or, for a
 4 teacher who becomes an intern, at least as much as that person would earn as a teacher on the
 5 teacher salary schedule. The North Carolina Principal Fellows Program or the school of education
 6 where the intern participates in a full-time master's in school administration program shall supply
 7 the Department of Public Instruction with certification of eligible full-time interns.

8 **SECTION 7A.8.(d)** Beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year, in lieu of providing
 9 annual longevity payments to assistant principals on the assistant principal salary schedule, the
 10 amounts of those longevity payments are included in the monthly amounts provided to assistant
 11 principals pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

12 **SECTION 7A.8.(e)** An assistant principal compensated in accordance with this
 13 section for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall receive an amount equal to the greater of the following:

- 14 (1) The applicable amount on the salary schedule for the applicable year.
- 15 (2) For assistant principals who were eligible for longevity in the 2016-2017 fiscal
 16 year, the sum of the following:
 - 17 a. The salary the assistant principal received in the 2016-2017 fiscal year
 18 pursuant to Section 9.1 or Section 9.2 of S.L. 2016-94.
 - 19 b. The longevity that the assistant principal would have received as
 20 provided for State employees under the North Carolina Human
 21 Resources Act for the 2016-2017 fiscal year based on the assistant
 22 principal's current years of service.
- 23 (3) For assistant principals who were not eligible for longevity in the 2016-2017
 24 fiscal year, the salary the assistant principal received in the 2016-2017 fiscal
 25 year pursuant to Section 9.1 or Section 9.2 of S.L. 2016-94.

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 27 **CENTRAL OFFICE SALARIES**

28 **SECTION 7A.9.(a)** For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023, the
 29 annual salary for superintendents, assistant superintendents, associate superintendents,
 30 directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance officers whose salaries are supported from State
 31 funds shall be increased by two and one-half percent (2.5%).

32 **SECTION 7A.9.(b)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to increase the annual
 33 salary for superintendents, assistant superintendents, associate superintendents,
 34 directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance officers whose salaries are supported from State
 35 funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2024, by two and one-half percent (2.5%).

36 **SECTION 7A.9.(c)** The monthly salary maximums that follow apply to assistant
 37 superintendents, associate superintendents, directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance
 38 officers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023:

	2023-2024 Fiscal Year Maximum
School Administrator I	\$7,246
School Administrator II	\$7,677
School Administrator III	\$8,135
School Administrator IV	\$8,453
School Administrator V	\$8,790
School Administrator VI	\$9,312
School Administrator VII	\$9,683

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 48 The local board of education shall determine the appropriate category and placement
 49 for each assistant superintendent, associate superintendent, director/coordinator, supervisor, or
 50 finance officer within the maximums and within funds appropriated by the General Assembly

1 for central office administrators and superintendents. The category in which an employee is
 2 placed shall be included in the contract of any employee.

3 **SECTION 7A.9.(d)** The monthly salary maximums that follow apply to
 4 superintendents for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023:

5 **2023-2024 Fiscal Year**

6 **Maximum**

7 Superintendent I	\$10,264
8 Superintendent II	\$10,876
9 Superintendent III	\$11,529
10 Superintendent IV	\$12,222
11 Superintendent V	\$12,957

12 The local board of education shall determine the appropriate category and placement
 13 for the superintendent based on the average daily membership of the local school administrative
 14 unit and within funds appropriated by the General Assembly for central office administrators and
 15 superintendents.

16 **SECTION 7A.9.(e)** Longevity pay for superintendents, assistant superintendents,
 17 associate superintendents, directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance officers shall be as
 18 provided for State employees under the North Carolina Human Resources Act.

19 **SECTION 7A.9.(f)** Superintendents, assistant superintendents, associate
 20 superintendents, directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance officers with certification based
 21 on academic preparation at the six-year degree level shall receive a salary supplement of one
 22 hundred twenty-six dollars (\$126.00) per month in addition to the compensation provided
 23 pursuant to this section. Superintendents, assistant superintendents, associate superintendents,
 24 directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance officers with certification based on academic
 25 preparation at the doctoral degree level shall receive a salary supplement of two hundred
 26 fifty-three dollars (\$253.00) per month in addition to the compensation provided for under this
 27 section.

28 **SECTION 7A.9.(g)** The State Board of Education shall not permit local school
 29 administrative units to transfer State funds from other funding categories for salaries for public
 30 school central office administrators.

31 **SECTION 7A.9.(h)** It is the intent of the General Assembly that the monthly salary
 32 maximums that follow shall apply to assistant superintendents, associate superintendents,
 33 directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance officers for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, beginning
 34 July 1, 2024:

35 **2024-2025 Fiscal Year**

36 **Maximum**

37 School Administrator I	\$7,427
38 School Administrator II	\$7,869
39 School Administrator III	\$8,338
40 School Administrator IV	\$8,664
41 School Administrator V	\$9,010
42 School Administrator VI	\$9,545
43 School Administrator VII	\$9,925

44 **SECTION 7A.9.(i)** It is the intent of the General Assembly that the monthly salary
 45 maximums that follow shall apply to superintendents for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, beginning
 46 July 1, 2024:

47 **2024-2025 Fiscal Year**

48 **Maximum**

49 Superintendent I	\$10,521
50 Superintendent II	\$11,148
51 Superintendent III	\$11,817

1	Superintendent IV	\$12,528
2	Superintendent V	\$13,281

NONCERTIFIED PERSONNEL SALARIES

SECTION 7A.10.(a) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023, the annual salary for noncertified public school employees whose salaries are supported from State funds shall be increased as follows:

- (1) For permanent, full-time employees on a 12-month contract, by two and one-half percent (2.5%).
- (2) For the following employees, by an equitable amount based on the amount specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection:
 - a. Permanent, full-time employees on a contract for fewer than 12 months.
 - b. Permanent, part-time employees.
 - c. Temporary and permanent hourly employees.

SECTION 7A.10.(b) For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2024, it is the intent of the General Assembly to increase the annual salary for noncertified public school employees whose salaries are supported from State funds as follows:

- (1) For permanent, full-time employees on a 12-month contract, by two and one-half percent (2.5%).
- (2) For the following employees, by an equitable amount based on the amount specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection:
 - a. Permanent, full-time employees on a contract for fewer than 12 months.
 - b. Permanent, part-time employees.
 - c. Temporary and permanent hourly employees.

PART VIII. THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

UNC/ESCHEAT FUND FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

SECTION 8.1.(a) The funds appropriated by this act from the Escheat Fund for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for student financial aid shall be allocated in accordance with G.S. 116B-7. Notwithstanding any other provision of Chapter 116B of the General Statutes, if the interest income generated from the Escheat Fund is less than the amounts referenced in this act, the difference may be taken from the Escheat Fund principal to reach the appropriations referenced in this act; however, under no circumstances shall the Escheat Fund principal be reduced below the sum required in G.S. 116B-6(f). If any funds appropriated from the Escheat Fund by this act for student financial aid remain uncommitted aid as of the end of a fiscal year, the funds shall be returned to the Escheat Fund, but only to the extent the funds exceed the amount of the Escheat Fund income for that fiscal year.

SECTION 8.1.(b) The State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) shall conduct periodic evaluations of expenditures of the student financial aid programs administered by the Authority to determine if allocations are utilized to ensure access to institutions of higher education and to meet the goals of the respective programs. The Authority may make recommendations for redistribution of funds to the President of The University of North Carolina and the President of the Community College System regarding their respective student financial aid programs, who then may authorize redistribution of unutilized funds for a particular fiscal year.

UNC BUILDING RESERVE STUDY

SECTION 8.2.(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

1 (1) Building. – A building that is operated or maintained by The University of
2 North Carolina or a constituent institution of The University of North
3 Carolina.

4 (2) Building reserve model. – The formula used by The University of North
5 Carolina System Office to determine the operating and maintenance costs for
6 buildings once construction of those buildings is complete.

7 **SECTION 8.2.(b)** No later than April 1, 2024, the Board of Governors of The
8 University of North Carolina shall study and report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
9 Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the building reserve model. At a minimum, the
10 report shall include the following information:

11 (1) For all buildings, disaggregated by constituent institution and fund source, the
12 following:

13 a. Expenditures related to operation and maintenance costs for the
14 2022-2023 fiscal year, including expenditures disaggregated on the
15 basis of at least the following building reserve model outputs and
16 expenses:

- 17 1. Personnel and fringe benefits.
- 18 2. Utilities and insurance.
- 19 3. Custodial and supplies.
- 20 4. Facilities and maintenance.
- 21 5. Information technology.

22 b. The number of full-time equivalent positions for building operation
23 and maintenance used in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, including at least
24 positions that align with the following building reserve model outputs
25 and expenses:

- 26 1. Building environmental service technician and supervisor.
- 27 2. Building environmental service supervisor.
- 28 3. Facilities maintenance technician mechanical.
- 29 4. Public safety officer.
- 30 5. Environmental health and safety professional.
- 31 6. Information technology networking analyst.
- 32 7. Information technology networking technician.
- 33 8. Facilities maintenance technician trades.

34 c. Recurring expenditures generated by the current building reserve
35 model, taking into account all gross square feet and building types, for
36 at least the outputs and expenses identified in sub-subdivision a. of this
37 subdivision.

38 d. The number of full-time positions generated by the current building
39 reserve model, taking into account all gross square feet and building
40 types, for at least the outputs and expenses identified in
41 sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision.

42 (2) An analysis of the findings in subdivision (1) of this subsection, including at
43 least the following information:

44 a. Any instances where the current building reserve model aligns or
45 misaligns with full-time equivalent positions and actual expenditures
46 of the constituent institutions.

47 b. Any substantial differences among constituent institutions in actual
48 operating and maintenance expenditures compared to projected
49 expenditures under the building reserve model.

50 c. Recommendations to improve the process of providing operation and
51 maintenance funds for buildings.

COMPLETION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SECTION 8.3.(a) For purposes of this section, the term "eligible constituent institutions" refers to the following constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina:

- (1) Elizabeth City State University.
- (2) Fayetteville State University.
- (3) North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.
- (4) North Carolina Central University.
- (5) The University of North Carolina at Asheville.
- (6) The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.
- (7) Winston-Salem State University.

SECTION 8.3.(b) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall establish a Completion Assistance Program (Program) at each eligible constituent institution. At a minimum, to the extent funds are provided for this purpose, each Program shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) A student enrolled in a Program established by this section may receive up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per academic year under that Program to pay for the costs of continuing attendance and earning necessary credit hours at the eligible constituent institution.
- (2) A student shall be eligible to receive funds under a Program if the student meets at least the following requirements:
 - a. Needs financial assistance to remain enrolled at the eligible constituent institution and earn credits necessary to graduate on time.
 - b. Is a resident for tuition purposes, as provided in G.S. 116-143.1.
 - c. Meets satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the Board.
 - d. Has completed or is on track to complete at least 60 academic credit hours by the end of the semester in which the funds are provided.
 - e. Has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year in which the funds are provided.
 - f. Has an unpaid balance with the eligible constituent institution. This may include an unpaid balance for tuition, fees, room, board, or other expenses of attendance.

SECTION 8.3.(c) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall report on each Completion Assistance Program established pursuant to this section to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee no later than March 15 of each year. The report shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of the impact of each Program on the following:

- (1) On-time graduation rates.
- (2) Student debt at graduation.

SECTION 8.3.(d) Of the nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for Completion Assistance Programs, the Board shall allocate these funds each year on an equal basis among all eligible constituent institutions.

ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL OF CIVIC LIFE AND LEADERSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

SECTION 8.5.(a) The Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the Provost of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and faculty and administration officials at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, shall establish the School of Civic Life and Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (the School). The School shall provide course opportunities for students and house the Program on Public Discourse.

1 Courses may focus on the development of democratic competencies informed by American
2 history and the American political tradition, with the purpose of fostering public discourse and
3 civil engagement necessary to promote democracy and benefit society. The School may also
4 develop programming addressing these topics and provide resources to students, faculty, and the
5 general public, as needed.

6 **SECTION 8.5.(b)** If the nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act to the Board of
7 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to be allocated
8 to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the School of Civic Life and Leadership
9 are insufficient to establish the School pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the University
10 of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shall expend sufficient additional funds to achieve that purpose.

11 **SECTION 8.5.(c)** No later than March 15, 2024, the Board of Trustees of the
12 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shall report to the Joint Legislative Education
13 Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on progress made toward establishing the
14 School of Civic Life and Leadership and factors affecting the long-term sustainability of the
15 School.

16 17 **REDUCE NUMBER OF REQUIRED UNC LABORATORY SCHOOLS FROM NINE TO** 18 **EIGHT**

19 **SECTION 8.6.(a)** G.S. 116-239.5(a) reads as rewritten:

20 "(a) The Board of Governors, upon recommendation by the President, shall designate
21 constituent institutions to submit proposals to establish at least ~~nine~~eight laboratory schools in
22 total to serve public school students in accordance with the provisions of this Article. The Board
23 of Governors shall select constituent institutions with high-quality educator preparation programs
24 as demonstrated by the annual performance measures reported by the constituent institutions in
25 accordance with G.S. 115C-296.35. The Board of Governors' Subcommittee on Laboratory
26 Schools established under G.S. 116-239.7 shall review the proposals and approve at least ~~nine~~
27 eight of the proposals to establish laboratory schools. The Subcommittee may select a constituent
28 institution to operate more than one laboratory school. The Subcommittee shall oversee the
29 operations of those laboratory schools to meet the purposes set forth in this Article."

30 **SECTION 8.6.(b)** G.S. 116-239.7(a1) reads as rewritten:

31 "(a1) Approval of Laboratory Schools. – The Board of Governors, upon the
32 recommendation of the President, shall designate constituent institutions to establish and operate
33 a total of at least ~~nine~~eight laboratory schools. The chancellor of each constituent institution
34 shall adopt and submit to the Subcommittee a proposal to operate one or more laboratory schools
35 in one or more local school administrative units that meet the minimum threshold for the number
36 of low-performing schools located in a unit under G.S. 116-239.6(4). The proposal shall include
37 the governance structure of the laboratory school. The Subcommittee shall evaluate the proposals
38 for approval or disapproval by considering the design components and the strategic focus of the
39 laboratory school and any other standards developed by the Subcommittee to be applicable to all
40 laboratory schools. The Subcommittee shall also consider the location of each laboratory school
41 so that, to the extent possible, there is a geographically diverse distribution of the laboratory
42 schools throughout the State. From the proposals submitted to the Subcommittee, the
43 Subcommittee shall approve the establishment of at least ~~nine~~eight laboratory schools."

44 45 **COLLABORATORY REPORT ON RECOVERY COURT STUDY RESULTS**

46 **SECTION 8.11.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act from the Opioid Abatement
47 Fund established pursuant to Section 9F.1 of S.L. 2021-180, as amended by Section 9F.1 of S.L.
48 2022-74, to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to be allocated to the
49 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory),
50 the Collaboratory shall study existing judicially managed accountability and recovery courts
51 (JMARC)s, including those drug treatment courts and JMARC)s partially or fully exempted from

1 Article 62 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes under G.S. 7A-802. These funds shall not revert
2 at the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year but shall remain available until expended.

3 **SECTION 8.11.(b)** No later than October 1, 2024, the Collaboratory shall report on
4 the results of the study required by subsection (a) of this section to the following entities:

- 5 (1) The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services.
- 6 (2) The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety.
- 7 (3) The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.
- 8 (4) The chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Health and
9 Human Services.
- 10 (5) The chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and
11 Public Safety.
- 12 (6) The chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Education.

13 **SECTION 8.11.(c)** The report required by subsection (b) of this section shall
14 include, at a minimum, each of the following:

- 15 (1) Executive summary of the study and its findings.
- 16 (2) Summary of each JMARC's operating model.
- 17 (3) Summary of each JMARC's funding sources.
- 18 (4) Analysis of demand and capacity for each JMARC.
- 19 (5) Summary of need and local interest for additional JMARC's.
- 20 (6) Feasibility of JMARC's operating across counties and across judicial districts.
- 21 (7) Proposed JMARC expansion plan.
- 22 (8) List of funding sources to support the expansion plan outlined in subdivision
23 (7) of this subsection.

24 **SECTION 8.11.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
25

26 **REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS** 27 **REPORT AND ESTABLISH CTP PROGRAM AT UNC-W**

28 **SECTION 8.12.(a)** Article 35A of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended
29 by adding a new section to read:

30 **"§ 116-298. Report.**

31 The University of North Carolina System Office shall report to the Joint Legislative
32 Education Oversight Committee by March 15 of each year on the impact on participants of CTP
33 Programs at constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina. At a minimum, the
34 report shall include the following information for each CTP Program at a constituent institution:

- 35 (1) Admissions requirements.
- 36 (2) Number of participants.
- 37 (3) Participant outcomes, including credits earned toward a degree, diploma, or
38 certificate and job placements for participants and graduates."

39 **SECTION 8.12.(b)** Of the recurring funds appropriated in this act to the Board of
40 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to be allocated
41 to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNC-W), UNC-W shall establish a certificate
42 accomplishment program to be approved by the United States Department of Education as a
43 Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program (Program) for students with
44 intellectual disabilities in accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, 20
45 U.S.C. §§ 1140f through 1140i.

46 **SECTION 8.12.(c)** No later than March 15, 2025, UNC-W shall report to the Joint
47 Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on its progress in
48 establishing the Program pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The report shall include at
49 least the following information:

- 50 (1) Steps taken and steps remaining to establish the Program.
- 51 (2) Proposed or actual admissions requirements for the Program.

- 1 (3) Support services to be provided by the Program, including the eligibility of
- 2 participants to receive college credits.
- 3 (4) Actual or estimated number of participants in the Program.
- 4 (5) Estimated additional costs to provide scholarships to students participating in
- 5 the Program under the Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary Scholarship
- 6 Program established pursuant to Article 35A of Chapter 116 of the General
- 7 Statutes.
- 8 (6) Whether the Program has been approved by the United States Department of
- 9 Education and, if not, a time line for approval.

10 NC PLANT SCIENCES INITIATIVE

11 **SECTION 8.13.(a)** Of the recurring funds appropriated in this act to the Board of
12 Governors of The University of North Carolina to be allocated to North Carolina State University
13 (NC State) and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T) for the
14 North Carolina Plant Sciences Initiative (Initiative), NC State and NC A&T shall each contract
15 with SAS Institute, Inc., to establish or maintain a software platform to use data collection via
16 in-field sensors to improve agricultural systems and agricultural profitability and to detect and
17 respond to plant disease. Funds shall be used for software, equipment installation, cloud hosting,
18 and technical support. NC State and NC A&T shall collaborate in the creation and use of these
19 platforms as much as practicable.

20 **SECTION 8.13.(b)** No later than August 15, 2025, NC State and NC A&T shall
21 jointly report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the impact of the
22 Initiative on the following:

- 23 (1) The sustainability and profitability of agricultural systems in the State,
- 24 including any improved efficiencies.
- 25 (2) Research grants secured by each constituent institution.
- 26 (3) Student and faculty recruitment and retention.
- 27 (4) Engagement and collaboration with private farmers in the State.
- 28 (5) Faculty research on agriculture.
- 29 (6) Collaboration between NC State and NC A&T.

30 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM FACULTY RETIREMENT 31 INCENTIVE PROGRAM

32 **SECTION 8.14.(a)** For purposes of this section, the term "identified faculty
33 member" means a full-time, tenured faculty member employed by a constituent institution of The
34 University of North Carolina who meets all of the following criteria:

- 35 (1) Is at least 55 years of age.
- 36 (2) Meets either of the following criteria:
 - 37 a. Is eligible to commence retirement with an early or service retirement
 - 38 allowance under the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement
 - 39 System (TSERS).
 - 40 b. Is vested in the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) for The
 - 41 University of North Carolina.
- 42 (3) Does not receive disability or workers' compensation benefits.

43 **SECTION 8.14.(b)** For the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the Board of Governors of
44 The University of North Carolina shall establish a Faculty Retirement Incentive Pilot Program
45 (Program) for constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina to award severance
46 payments to identified faculty members to provide long-term cost-savings and improved
47 operational efficiencies for The University of North Carolina. Funds for the Program shall be
48 distributed among constituent institutions based on criteria established by the President of The
49 University of North Carolina. The Program shall meet at least the following requirements:
50
51

- 1 (1) An identified faculty member shall be selected to receive a payment under the
2 Program in the discretion of the constituent institution where the identified
3 faculty member is employed.
- 4 (2) Severance payments shall be equivalent to the identified faculty member's
5 base salary from the prior academic year.
- 6 (3) Severance payments shall be exempt from payroll deductions for retirement
7 contributions and shall not be considered compensation for purposes of the
8 supplemental plans administered by The University of North Carolina or plans
9 administered by the Supplemental Retirement Board of Trustees under
10 G.S. 135-96.
- 11 (4) If an identified faculty member does not qualify for the full employer premium
12 contribution for retiree health coverage provided under TSERS or ORP, then
13 the constituent institution where the identified faculty member is employed
14 may provide the faculty member, in addition to a severance payment, an
15 amount equivalent to 12 months of the full employer contribution to the
16 employee health insurance premium.

17 **SECTION 8.14.(c)** By December 1, 2024, and annually thereafter while funds are
18 expended under the Program, the Board of Governors shall report at least the following
19 information on the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the
20 Fiscal Research Division, disaggregated by constituent institution:

- 21 (1) The number of identified faculty members that received funds under the
22 Program.
- 23 (2) The total amount paid out by the Program.

24 **SECTION 8.14.(d)** The nonrecurring funds appropriated to the Board of Governors
25 of The University of North Carolina in this act for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the University
26 of North Carolina System Faculty Retirement Incentive Program, as enacted by this section, shall
27 not revert to the General Fund at the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year but shall remain available
28 until expended.

30 REVISE POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT GOAL REPORTING TIME

31 **SECTION 8.15.** Section 1(c) of S.L. 2019-55 reads as rewritten:

32 "**SECTION 1.(c)** Beginning ~~September 1, 2020, March 1, 2024,~~ and every ~~September March~~
33 1 thereafter, the myFutureNC Commission, which is a statewide commission focusing on
34 postsecondary educational attainment in North Carolina, shall report to the General Assembly,
35 as provided by G.S. 120-29.5, and to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on
36 the progress of the State reaching the postsecondary attainment goal set forth in G.S. 116C-10,
37 as enacted by this act, and activities by the Commission to further North Carolina towards the
38 postsecondary attainment goal."

40 WATER SAFETY ACT OF 2023

41 **SECTION 8.16.(a)** Water Research Funding. – Funds appropriated in this act to the
42 North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for research and
43 other programs related to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and the Collaboratory's
44 general research programs shall be allocated as follows:

- 45 (1) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for programs
46 related to management of aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) containing
47 PFAS used by local fire departments and for other PFAS-related research. For
48 purposes of this act, "local fire department" means a fire department operated,
49 regulated, or managed by one or more units of State or local government,
50 including those located at or serving public airports. These funds are allocated
51 to the Collaboratory for the following purposes:

- 1 a. To conduct a voluntary buyback program for stocks of
2 PFAS-containing AFFF owned or stored by local fire departments.
3 The program may also include the purchase and distribution of
4 replacement PFAS-free foams.
- 5 b. To develop, acquire, analyze, and deploy facilities and technologies to
6 safely store and destroy PFAS-containing AFFF, including
7 technologies available outside of the State.
- 8 c. To plan and construct an AFFF firefighting training site that will allow
9 fire departments to train with both PFAS-containing AFFF and AFFF
10 that does not contain PFAS while minimizing the environmental
11 impacts of this training. The facility shall be designed to contain runoff
12 from PFAS-containing AFFF and shall be sited at the Office of the
13 State Fire Marshal's Advanced Rescue Training Facility in Stanly
14 County. The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall determine types of
15 AFFF that will be used for training at the site.
- 16 d. To provide competitive research grants for (i) human exposure and
17 other studies intended to assess the long-term health risk to firefighters
18 and other emergency response personnel and their family members
19 from exposure to PFAS-containing AFFF and related
20 PFAS-containing materials and (ii) other research related to PFAS in
21 water and air, PFAS toxicology and human exposure, and the
22 mitigation, removal, or destruction of PFAS and PFAS-containing
23 materials.
- 24 e. To fund upgrades to laboratory space at the Textile Protection and
25 Comfort Center at North Carolina State University to accommodate
26 aerosol studies that simulate airborne PFAS particulate exposure.
- 27 (2) Four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in recurring funds for other PFAS research
28 projects. In its expenditure of the funds allocated by this subsection, the
29 Collaboratory shall prioritize funding of a multiyear human exposure study
30 related to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in North Carolina
31 counties identified with higher than average PFAS exposure risks from
32 inhalation, ingestion, and dermal exposure. Selection of study participants
33 shall prioritize counties and communities (i) with a primary drinking water
34 source from the Haw or the Cape Fear River, (ii) located near industrial
35 processes that use or create PFAS or chemical precursors to PFAS that may
36 become PFAS compounds once released, (iii) located within the Cape Fear
37 and Lumber River Basins, and (iv) that may present a particularized risk,
38 exposure, or other health factors deemed appropriate by the Collaboratory.
39 The Collaboratory may engage expertise from the Departments of
40 Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services and may utilize the
41 Office of Strategic Partnerships within the Office of State Budget and
42 Management to assist in working with State and local agencies.
- 43 (3) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in recurring funds for water-related research
44 for emerging compounds, water quality improvements, or other discretionary
45 research deemed important to the State by the Collaboratory.

46 **SECTION 8.16.(b)** Report. – The Collaboratory shall include in the report required
47 by G.S. 116-256 documentation of its use of the funds allocated by this section and updates
48 regarding the research funded by this section.

49 **SECTION 8.16.(c)** HMSI Research Grants. – Section 8.9(a) of S.L. 2021-180 reads
50 as rewritten:

1 **"SECTION 8.9.(a)** The North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory), established pursuant
2 to Article 31A of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes, shall establish a research grant program
3 for the following constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina identified as
4 Historically Minority-Serving Institutions (HMSIs): Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville
5 State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina
6 Central University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Winston-Salem State
7 University. The Collaboratory shall establish an application process and criteria for research
8 grants that include a focus on areas within the Collaboratory's mission ~~of facilitating research~~
9 ~~related to the environmental and economic components of the management of the natural~~
10 ~~resources within the State and of new technologies for habitat, environmental, and water quality~~
11 ~~improvements and other areas of public health.~~ as set forth in G.S. 116-255.

12 The Collaboratory may award one or more research grants each fiscal year to each of the six
13 HMSI constituent institutions to be used to expand their research capacity while being in service
14 to the needs of the State. Of the funds appropriated by this act for the research grant program, the
15 Collaboratory shall determine the amount of the research grant for each HMSI constituent
16 institution in a fiscal year."

17 **SECTION 8.16.(d)** Public Water Supply Fluoridation Study. – The Commission for
18 Public Health shall perform a review of the National Toxicity Program's September 2022 draft
19 report titled "Monograph on the State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and
20 Neurodevelopmental and Cognitive Health Effects: A Systematic Review," as well as the studies
21 reviewed in the report, and any other studies the Commission finds relevant to an assessment of
22 the association between fluoride exposure and IQ in children. Based on this review, the
23 Commission shall determine whether sufficient evidence exists for a link between fluoride in the
24 public water supply and cognitive decline or any other neurological detriment in children.

25 **SECTION 8.16.(e)** The Commission shall make a report to the General Assembly
26 on or before February 1, 2024, of its findings and recommendations, including a recommendation
27 on whether the current standard for fluoride established in the Commission's rules (i) is protective
28 of public health and (ii) should be lowered. If the Commission makes the determination regarding
29 a link between fluoride in public water supplies and neurological impacts in children as described
30 in subsection (a) of this section, then the Commission shall direct the Department of Health and
31 Human Services to create a list of the private and public water utilities in the State, their fluoride
32 concentration, the number of children or households to which they provide water, and any other
33 information that it deems pertinent. The Department shall include with the list a ranking of the
34 risk to children of the water supplied by each utility.

35 **SECTION 8.16.(f)** Revenue Sharing and Funding Availability. – G.S. 116-255(c)
36 reads as rewritten:

37 "(c) Funding Conditions and Restrictions. – The following applies to funding received by
38 the Collaboratory:

39 ...

40 (7) The Collaboratory may negotiate or impose data use, data management, and
41 revenue sharing requirements for intellectual property developed through its
42 research awards using State funds, including, but not limited to, contractual
43 terms that provide for gross revenue distribution to the General Fund for future
44 research and development projects.

45 (8) Funds appropriated by the General Assembly to the Collaboratory (i) shall not
46 revert to the General Fund but shall remain available until expended and (ii)
47 shall not apply to the carryforward limitation imposed on constituent
48 institutions of The University of North Carolina by G.S. 116-30.3."

49 **SECTION 8.16.(g)** Effective Date. – Subsections (a) and (b) of this section become
50 effective July 1, 2023. The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.
51

1 **UNC-W RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN CRITICAL WORKFORCE AREAS FUNDS AND**
 2 **REPORT**

3 **SECTION 8.17.** Of the recurring funds appropriated in this act to the Board of
 4 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to be allocated
 5 to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNC-W) for research programs, UNC-W
 6 shall expand research programs in critical research areas to maintain its classification in the
 7 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as R2 – High Research Activity.
 8 UNC-W shall use these funds only to expand relevant research programs in critical research areas
 9 and shall not supplant other funds already allocated for these purposes. By March 15, 2024, and
 10 every year thereafter in which these funds are provided, UNC-W shall report to the Joint
 11 Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the use of the
 12 funds. The report shall include at least the following information:

- 13 (1) A detailed explanation of how the funds are used, including all expansions on
 14 research programs supported by these funds since the previous report and the
 15 nature of each expansion.
- 16 (2) All critical research areas at the university, as defined by UNC-W.
- 17 (3) The impact of the expansions identified in subdivision (1) of this section on
 18 the critical research areas identified in subdivision (2) of this section,
 19 including the extent to which the expansions support the continued
 20 classification of UNC-W as a High Research Activity institution.
- 21 (4) Recommended actions to maintain the classification of UNC-W as a High
 22 Research Activity institution or to improve that classification to R1 – Very
 23 High Research Activity.
- 24 (5) Any other matter UNC-W deems relevant to the efficient and effective
 25 expenditure of these funds.

26
 27 **REVISE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND**

28 **SECTION 8.18.(a)** Part 4A of Article 1 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes reads
 29 as rewritten:

30 "Part 4A. Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund.

31 **"§ 116-41.13. ~~Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund; purpose.~~Purpose.**

32 The General Assembly of North Carolina recognizes that the public university system would
 33 be greatly strengthened by the addition of distinguished ~~scholars.~~scholars for degree programs
 34 in STEM subject areas. It further recognizes that private as well as State support is preferred in
 35 helping to obtain distinguished scholars for the State universities and that private support will
 36 help strengthen the commitment of citizens and organizations in promoting excellence
 37 throughout all State universities. It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a trust fund
 38 to provide the opportunity to each State university to receive and match challenge grants to create
 39 endowments for selected distinguished professors for degree programs in STEM subject areas to
 40 occupy chairs within the university. The associated foundations that serve the universities shall
 41 solicit and receive gifts from private sources to provide for matching funds to the trust fund
 42 challenge grants for the establishment of endowments for chairs for degree programs in STEM
 43 subject areas within universities.

44 **"§ 116-41.13A. ~~Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund; definitions.~~Definitions.**

45 The following definitions apply in this Part:

- 46 (1) ~~"Focused growth institution" means~~ Focused growth institution. – Any of the
 47 following:
 - 48 a. Elizabeth City State ~~University,~~University.
 - 49 b. Fayetteville State ~~University,~~University.
 - 50 c. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical ~~University,~~University.
 - 51 d. North Carolina Central ~~University,~~University.

e. ~~The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke.~~

f. ~~Western Carolina University, and University.~~

g. ~~Winston-Salem State University.~~

(2) ~~"Special needs institution" means the Special needs institution. – Any of the following:~~

a. ~~The North Carolina School of the Arts, redesignated effective August 1, 2008, as the "University of North Carolina School of the Arts," and Arts."~~

b. ~~The University of North Carolina at Asheville.~~

(3) ~~STEM subject area. – Any subject area in a field of scholarship related to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. A subject area in a field of scholarship related to journalism or law is not a STEM subject area.~~

"§ 116-41.14. ~~Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund; establishment; Establishment of the Fund; maintenance.~~

There is established a Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund to be maintained by the Board to provide challenge grants to the constituent institutions. All appropriated funds deposited into the trust fund shall be invested pursuant to G.S. 116-36. Interest income accruing to that portion of the trust fund not matched shall increase the total funds available for challenge grants.

"§ 116-41.15. ~~Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund; allocation; Allocation; administration.~~

(a) For constituent institutions other than focused growth institutions and special needs institutions, the amount appropriated to the trust shall be allocated by the Board as follows:

(1) ~~According to one of the following:~~

~~(1)a.~~ On the basis of one three hundred thirty-four thousand dollar (\$334,000) challenge grant for each six hundred sixty-six thousand dollars (\$666,000) raised from private ~~sources; or~~ sources.

~~(2)b.~~ On the basis of one one hundred sixty-seven thousand dollar (\$167,000) challenge grant for each three hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (\$333,000) raised from private ~~sources; or~~ sources.

~~(3)c.~~ On the basis of one challenge grant of up to six hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$667,000) for funds raised from private sources in twice the amount of the challenge grant.

(2) If an institution chooses to pursue the use of the allocated challenge grant funds described in either ~~subdivision (1), subdivision (2), sub-subdivision a., sub-subdivision b., or subdivision (3) sub-subdivision c.~~ of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the challenge grant funds shall be matched by funds from private sources on the basis of two dollars of private funds for every one dollar of State funds.

(b) For focused growth institutions and special needs institutions, the amount appropriated to the trust shall be allocated by the Board as follows:

(1) ~~According to one of the following:~~

~~(1)a.~~ On the basis of one five hundred thousand dollar (\$500,000) challenge grant for each five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) raised from private ~~sources; or~~ sources.

~~(2)b.~~ On the basis of one two hundred fifty thousand dollar (\$250,000) challenge grant for each two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) raised from private ~~sources; or~~ sources.

~~(3)c.~~ On the basis of one challenge grant of up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for funds raised from private sources in the same amount as the challenge grant.

(2) If an institution chooses to pursue the use of the allocated challenge grant funds described in either ~~subdivision (1), subdivision (2), sub-subdivision a., sub-subdivision b., or subdivision (3) sub-subdivision c.~~ of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the challenge grant funds shall be matched by funds from private sources on the basis of one dollar of private funds for every dollar of State funds.

(c) Matching funds shall come from contributions made after July 1, 1985, and pledged for the purposes specified by G.S. 116-41.14. Each participating constituent institution's board of trustees shall establish its own Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust ~~Fund~~, Fund and shall maintain it pursuant to the provision of G.S. 116-36 to function as a depository for private contributions and for the State matching funds for the challenge grants. The State matching funds shall be transferred to the constituent institution's Endowment Fund upon notification that the institution has received and deposited the appropriate amount required by this section in its own Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. Only the net income from that account shall be expended in support of the distinguished professorship thereby created.

"§ 116-41.16. ~~Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund; contribution~~ Contribution commitments.

(a) For constituent institutions other than focused growth institutions and special needs institutions, contributions may also be eligible for matching ~~if there is~~ as follows:

(1) If there is one of the following:

~~(1)a.~~ A commitment to make a donation of at least six hundred sixty-six thousand dollars (\$666,000), as prescribed by G.S. 143C-4-5, and an initial payment of one hundred eleven thousand dollars (\$111,000) to receive a grant described in ~~G.S. 116-41.15(a)(1);~~ G.S. 116-41.15(a)(1)a.

~~(2)b.~~ A commitment to make a donation of at least three hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (\$333,000), as prescribed by G.S. 143C-4-5, and an initial payment of fifty-five thousand five hundred dollars (\$55,500) to receive a grant described in ~~G.S. 116-41.15(a)(2);~~ G.S. 116-41.15(a)(1)b.

~~(3)c.~~ All of the following:

1. A commitment to make a donation in excess of six hundred sixty-six thousand dollars (\$666,000), as prescribed by ~~G.S. 143-31.4, and an~~ G.S. 143C-4-5.

2. An initial payment of one-sixth of the committed amount to receive a grant described in ~~G.S. 116-41.15(a)(3); and if the~~ G.S. 116-41.15(a)(1)c.

3. The initial payment is accompanied by a written pledge to provide the balance within five years after the date of the initial payment. Each payment on the balance shall be no less than the amount of the initial payment and shall be made on or before the anniversary date of the initial payment.

(2) Pledged contributions may not be matched prior to the actual collection of the total funds. Once the income from the institution's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund can be effectively used pursuant to G.S. 116-41.17, the institution shall proceed to implement plans for establishing an endowed ~~chair~~ chair in a STEM subject area.

(b) For focused growth institutions and special needs institutions, contributions may also be eligible for matching ~~if there is~~ as follows:

(1) If all of the following occur:

a. One of the following occurs:

~~(1)~~1. A commitment to make a donation of at least five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), as prescribed by G.S. 143C-4-5, and an initial payment of eighty-three thousand three hundred dollars (\$83,300) to receive a grant described in G.S. 116-41.5(b)(1); or G.S. 116-41.15(b)(1)a.

~~(2)~~2. A commitment to make a donation of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), as prescribed by G.S. 143C-4-5, and an initial payment of forty-one thousand six hundred dollars (\$41,600) to receive a grant described in G.S. 116-41.15(b)(2); or G.S. 116-41.15(b)(1)b.

~~(3)~~3. A commitment to make a donation in excess of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), as prescribed by ~~G.S. 143-31.4;~~ G.S. 143C-4-5, and an initial payment of one-sixth of the committed amount to receive a grant described in G.S. 116-41.15(b)(3); and if the G.S. 116-41.15(b)(1)c.

b. The initial payment is accompanied by a written pledge to provide the balance within five years after the date of the initial payment. Each payment on the balance shall be no less than the amount of the initial payment.

(2) Pledged contributions may not be matched prior to the actual collection of the total funds. Once the income from the institution's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund can be effectively used pursuant to G.S. 116-41.17, the institution shall proceed to implement plans for establishing an endowed ~~chair;~~ chair in a STEM subject area.

**~~"§ 116-41.17. Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund; establishment~~
Establishment of chairs.**

~~(a) When~~ (a) The board of trustees may recommend to the Board, for its approval, the establishment of an endowed chair or chairs in a STEM subject area when the sum of the challenge grant and matching funds in the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund reaches;reaches one of the following:

(1) One million dollars (\$1,000,000), if the sum of funds described in G.S. 116-41.15(a)(1) ~~or G.S. 116-41.15(b)(1); or~~ G.S. 116-41.15(a)(1)a. or G.S. 116-41.15(b)(1)a.

(2) Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), if the sum of funds described in G.S. 116-41.15(a)(2) ~~or G.S. 116-41.15(b)(2); or~~ G.S. 116-41.15(a)(1)b. or G.S. 116-41.15(b)(1)b.

(3) An amount up to two million dollars (\$2,000,000), if the sum of funds described in ~~G.S. 116-41.15(a)(3) or~~ G.S. 116-41.15(b)(3);G.S. 116-41.15(a)(1)c. or G.S. 116-41.15(b)(1)c.

~~the board of trustees may recommend to the Board, for its approval, the establishment of an endowed chair or chairs.~~

(b) The Board, in considering whether to approve the ~~recommendation;~~ recommendation made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, shall include in its consideration the programs already existing in The University of North Carolina. If the Board approves the recommendation, the chair or chairs shall be established. The chair or chairs, the property of the constituent institution, may be named in honor of a donor, benefactor, or honoree of the institution, at the option of the board of trustees.

**~~"§ 116-41.18. Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund; selection~~
Selection of Distinguished Professors.**

(a) Each constituent institution that receives, through private gifts and an allocation by the Board of Governors, funds for the purpose shall, under procedures established by rules of the

1 Board of Governors and the board of trustees of the constituent institution, select a holder of the
2 Distinguished ~~Professorship~~. Professorship in a STEM area. Once given, that designation shall
3 be retained by the distinguished professor as long as ~~he~~ the distinguished professor remains in
4 the full-time service of the institution as a faculty member, or for more limited lengths of time
5 when authorized by the Board of Governors and the board of trustees at the institution when the
6 Distinguished Professorship is originally established or vacated. When a distinguished
7 professorship becomes vacant, it shall remain assigned to the institution and another
8 distinguished professor shall be selected under procedures established by rules of the Board of
9 Governors and the board of trustees of the constituent institution.

10 (a1) No rule shall prevent the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina
11 from selecting holders of Distinguished Professorships from among existing faculty members or
12 newly hired faculty members.

13 (b) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall promulgate rules
14 to implement this section.

15 (c) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The
16 University of North Carolina the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for fiscal year 1985-86,
17 and the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for fiscal year 1986-87, to implement this
18 section.

19 "**§ 116-41.19. ~~Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund; promulgation of~~**
20 **rules.Promulgation of rules; list of STEM subject areas.**

21 (a) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall promulgate rules
22 to implement this Part.

23 (b) No later than December 15, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Board of Governors
24 shall identify and provide to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee a list of degree
25 programs in STEM subject areas and the number of distinguished professorships at each
26 constituent institution funded pursuant to this Part in each STEM subject area. The Board of
27 Governors shall make the list of degree programs in STEM subject areas available on its
28 website."

29 **SECTION 8.18.(b)** The nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act to the
30 Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used
31 to provide matching funds only for selected distinguished professors in STEM subject areas, as
32 defined by the Board of Governors, in accordance with Part 4A of Article 1 of Chapter 116 of
33 the General Statutes, as amended by this section.

34 **SECTION 8.18.(c)** Subsection (a) of this section is effective when this act becomes
35 law and applies to distinguished professorships established on or after that date.

36 37 **COLLABORATORY STUDY NEXT-GENERATION ENERGY AND RESEARCH** 38 **DEVELOPMENT**

39 **SECTION 8.19.(a)** Of the nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act for the
40 2023-2024 fiscal year to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to be
41 allocated to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the North Carolina Collaboratory
42 (Collaboratory) for next-generation energy and research development, the Collaboratory shall
43 develop academic research partnerships with North Carolina businesses working in the field of
44 next-generation energies and shall leverage those partnerships to perform research and
45 development on next-generation energy technologies, including, but not limited to, lithium
46 batteries; computer chip manufacturing; small modular- or micro-nuclear technologies; hydrogen
47 storage, production, and transportation; and grid modeling across numerous scenarios for power
48 generation, storage, and distribution. These funds shall not revert at the end of the 2023-2024
49 fiscal year but shall remain available until expended.

50 **SECTION 8.19.(b)** The Collaboratory shall report on its activities pursuant to
51 subsection (a) of this section by March 15, 2024, and annually thereafter while funds are

1 expended under this section, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The report
2 shall include, at a minimum, all academic research partnerships established pursuant to this
3 section, the research and development projects undertaken alone or via those partnerships, and
4 the results of those projects, if any.

6 PART VIII-A. UNIVERSITY/STATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

8 PERMIT NCSSM AND UNCSA TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE USED FOR 9 SUMMER TUITION AND ESTABLISH INSTITUTIONAL TRUST FUND

10 SECTION 8A.3.(a) Part 6 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes reads
11 as rewritten:

12 "Part 6. Tuition Grant for High School Graduates of the North Carolina School of Science and
13 Mathematics and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

14 "§ 116-209.89. Definitions.

15 The following definitions apply in this Part:

16 (1) Academic term. – Any of the following:

17 a. One fall semester.

18 b. One spring semester.

19 c. One summer term.

20 (2) Summer term. – All instruction received in one summer between academic
21 years.

22 "§ 116-209.90. Tuition grants for graduates to attend a constituent institution.

23 (a) Within the funds available, a high school graduate from the North Carolina School of
24 Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) or the University of North Carolina School of the Arts
25 (UNCSA) in each school year who meets the following conditions shall be eligible for a tuition
26 grant awarded under this Part:

27 (1) Is a resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in G.S. 116-143.1
28 and in accordance with the coordinated and centralized residency
29 determination process administered by the Authority.

30 (2) Enrolls as a full-time student in a constituent institution of The University of
31 North Carolina in the next academic year after graduation.

32 (b) Students who receive initial tuition grants as a cohort of a high school graduating class
33 of NCSSM or UNCSA shall also be eligible to apply for tuition grants for subsequent academic
34 ~~years-terms~~ for up to a total of ~~four-eight~~ academic ~~years-terms~~, provided that tuition grants are
35 only used for undergraduate tuition.

36 (b1) A student must be continuously enrolled in an undergraduate program at a constituent
37 institution of The University of North Carolina after the award of the initial tuition grant to be
38 eligible for tuition grants in subsequent academic ~~years-terms~~. The Authority shall have the
39 discretion to waive this requirement if the student is able to demonstrate that any of the following
40 have substantially disrupted or interrupted the student's pursuit of a degree: (i) a military service
41 obligation, (ii) serious medical debilitation, (iii) a short-term or long-term disability, or (iv) other
42 extraordinary hardship.

43 (c) The amount of the tuition grant to each graduate shall be determined and distributed
44 as provided in G.S. 116-209.91.

45 "§ 116-209.91. Administration of tuition grants.

46 (a) The Authority shall administer the tuition grants provided for in this Part pursuant to
47 guidelines and procedures established by the Authority consistent with its practices for
48 administering State-funded financial aid. The guidelines and procedures shall include an
49 application process and schedule, notification and disbursement procedures, standards for
50 reporting, and standards for return of tuition grants when a student withdraws. The Authority
51 shall not approve any grant until it receives proper certification from the appropriate constituent

1 institution that the student applying for the grant is an eligible student. Upon receipt of the
2 certification, the Authority shall remit, at the times it prescribes, the tuition grant to the
3 constituent institution on behalf, and to the credit, of the student. In the event a student on whose
4 behalf a tuition grant has been paid is not enrolled in an undergraduate program and carrying a
5 minimum academic load as of the tenth classroom day following the beginning of the school
6 term for which the tuition grant was paid, the constituent institution shall refund the full amount
7 of the tuition grant to the Authority.

8 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the amount of the grant awarded to a
9 student shall cover the tuition cost at the constituent institution in which the student is enrolled.
10 No tuition grant awarded to a student under this section shall exceed the cost of attendance at a
11 constituent institution for which the student is enrolled.

12 (c) If a student, who is eligible for a tuition grant under this section, also receives a
13 scholarship or other grant covering the cost of attendance at the constituent institution for which
14 the tuition grant is awarded, then the amount of the tuition grant shall be reduced by an
15 appropriate amount determined by the Authority so that the total amount of scholarships and
16 grants received by the student does not exceed the cost of attendance for the institution. The cost
17 of attendance shall be determined by the Authority for each constituent institution.

18 (c1) The Authority shall place all funds appropriated to, or otherwise received by, the
19 Authority for the award of tuition grants under this Part into an institutional trust fund established
20 in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 116-36.1. All interest earned on these funds shall also
21 be placed in the institutional trust fund established pursuant to this subsection. The monies in the
22 institutional trust fund may be used only for the purposes set forth in this Part.

23 (d) In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each eligible student who has
24 applied in accordance with the application process and the schedule established by the Authority
25 with a full tuition grant as provided by this Part, each eligible student shall receive a pro rata
26 share of funds available for the academic ~~year~~term covered by the appropriation in the preceding
27 fiscal year.

28 (e) The Authority may use up to five percent (5%) of the funds appropriated each year
29 for tuition grants under this Part for administrative costs."

30 **SECTION 8A.3.(b)** G.S. 116-209.90(a), as amended by subsection (a) of this
31 section, reads as rewritten:

32 "(a) Within the funds available, an eligible graduate in each school year who meets the
33 following conditions shall qualify for a tuition grant awarded under this Part:

- 34 (1) Is a resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in G.S. 116-143.1
35 and in accordance with the coordinated and centralized residency
36 determination process administered by the Authority.
- 37 (2) Enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible institution of higher education in
38 the next academic year after graduation.
- 39 (3) Submits a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
40 form."

41 **SECTION 8A.3.(c)** G.S. 116-209.91(c1), as enacted by subsection (a) of this
42 section, becomes effective June 30, 2023. Subsection (b) of this section applies beginning with
43 graduates from the 2023-2024 school year. Except as otherwise provided, this section is effective
44 when it becomes law and applies beginning with graduates of the North Carolina School of
45 Science and Mathematics and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts from the
46 2022-2023 school year.

47
48 **EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS, REQUIRE A**
49 **SEQUENCE OF COURSES FOR EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, AND**
50 **ESTABLISH THE EARLY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

51 **SECTION 8A.6.(a)** G.S. 115C-562.1(3) is repealed.

1 **SECTION 8A.6.(b)** G.S. 115C-562.1 is amended by adding a new subdivision to
2 read:

3 "(3a) Eligible student. – A student residing in North Carolina who has not yet
4 received a high school diploma and who meets all of the following
5 requirements:

6 a. Is eligible to attend a North Carolina public school pursuant to Article
7 25 of this Chapter. A child who is the age of 4 on or before April 16 is
8 eligible to attend the following school year if the principal, or
9 equivalent, of the school in which the child seeks to enroll finds that
10 the student meets the requirements established by the Authority
11 pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.2(d) and those findings are submitted to the
12 Authority.

13 b. Has not been enrolled in a postsecondary institution as a full-time
14 student taking at least 12 hours of academic credit.

15 c. Has not been placed in a nonpublic school or facility by a public
16 agency at public expense.

17 d. Meets one of the following criteria:

18 1. Resides in a household with an income level not in excess of
19 two hundred percent (200%) of the amount required for the
20 student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch
21 program. The Authority shall not count any distribution from
22 the estate of a decedent in calculating the income level of the
23 applicant's household for the purposes of determining
24 eligibility for a scholarship under this sub-sub-subdivision.

25 2. Is a child in foster care as defined in G.S. 131D-10.2. The
26 Authority shall not consider the household income of the foster
27 parent, as defined in G.S. 131D-10.2, in determining the
28 eligibility of a foster care child."

29 **SECTION 8A.6.(c)** G.S. 115C-562.3 reads as rewritten:

30 **"§ 115C-562.3. Verification of eligibility; information from other State agencies.**

31 (a) To verify that the domicile requirements of G.S. 115C-366 are met for State
32 residency, the Authority shall establish a domicile determination system and shall establish rules
33 for determination of domicile within the State in accordance with this subsection. The Division
34 of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Instruction,
35 the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department
36 of Revenue, the State Board of Elections, and the State Chief Information Officer each shall
37 expeditiously cooperate with the Authority in verifying electronically, or by other similarly
38 effective and efficient means, evidence submitted to the Authority for the purposes of
39 establishing the domicile required by G.S. 115C-366 for State residency. The Authority shall
40 accept any of the following as evidence of domicile within the State:

41 (1) Verified State drivers license or State identification card.

42 (2) Verified State voter registration.

43 (3) Verified receipt of public benefits from a State agency.

44 (4) Verified filing of State income taxes for the year prior to application.

45 (5) Verified enrollment in a North Carolina public school at the time of
46 application.

47 (6) An electronically submitted copy of one of the following current documents
48 that show the name of the parent and an address within the State:

49 a. A utility bill.

50 b. A bank statement.

51 c. A government check.

1 d. A paycheck.

2 e. Any other government document.

3 (a1) ~~The~~In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Authority
4 may seek verification of information on any application for scholarship grants from eligible
5 students. The Authority shall select and verify six percent (6%) of applications annually,
6 including those with apparent errors on the face of the application. The Authority shall establish
7 rules for the verification process and may use the federal verification requirements process for
8 free and reduced-price lunch applications as guidance for those rules. If a household fails to
9 cooperate with verification efforts, the Authority shall revoke the award of the scholarship grant
10 to the eligible student.

11 (b) Household members of applicants for scholarship grants shall authorize the Authority
12 to access information needed for verification efforts conducted under this section held by other
13 State agencies, including the Department of Revenue, the Department of Health and Human
14 Services, and the Department of Public Instruction. ~~The Department of Public Instruction shall~~
15 ~~provide the Authority with public school enrollment information to establish eligibility pursuant~~
16 ~~to G.S. 115C-562.1(3)a., as needed.~~

17 (c) By December 1 of each year, the Department of Public Instruction shall provide the
18 Authority the average State per pupil allocation for that fiscal year to determine the maximum
19 scholarship amount for eligible students to be awarded in the following fiscal year in accordance
20 with G.S. 115C-562.2(b)."

21 **SECTION 8A.6.(d)** G.S. 115C-562.7 is amended by adding a new subsection to
22 read:

23 "(d) For any fiscal year in which the Authority uses funds from the Reserve as provided
24 under G.S. 115C-562.8(e), the Authority shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
25 Committee and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly by April 1 of that fiscal
26 year on at least the following:

27 (1) The methodology used by the Authority for determining the awards for the
28 school year, including the number of eligible students and the amount of
29 scholarship grants that were awarded under G.S. 115C-562.2.

30 (2) The actual number of eligible students and the amount of scholarship grants
31 received by eligible students for that school year.

32 (3) The amount of funds used from the Reserve, as permitted under
33 G.S. 115C-562.8(e), to fully fund the awards.

34 (4) Any legislative recommendations, including funding amounts, for the
35 scholarship grant program for the next fiscal year."

36 **SECTION 8A.6.(e)** G.S. 115C-562.8 is amended by adding a new subsection to
37 read:

38 "(e) The Authority shall make reasonable efforts to ensure the amount of scholarship
39 grants awarded for a school year do not exceed the funds that are available for the awards to
40 eligible students in each fiscal year. However, notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, to
41 ensure that as many eligible students receive scholarship grants in a timely manner as possible,
42 the Authority may use up to thirty percent (30%) of the unencumbered cash balance in the
43 Reserve in a fiscal year if the funds required to award scholarship grants to eligible students for
44 a school year exceed the funds available for the distribution of those awards. If the Authority
45 expends funds in excess of those available in the Reserve for a particular school year, the
46 Authority shall submit the report required by G.S. 115C-562.7(b1)."

47 **SECTION 8A.6.(f)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-562.3(a), as enacted by this section,
48 as part of a student's application for a scholarship grant pursuant to Part 2A of Article 39 of
49 Chapter 115C of the General Statutes for the 2023-2024 school year that is submitted on or after
50 the effective date of this section, and for all applications for the 2024-2025 school year, a parent
51 shall certify to the State Education Assistance Authority that the domicile requirements of

1 G.S. 115C-562.1(3a), as enacted by this section, are met for eligibility purposes in lieu of
 2 submitting evidence electronically to the State Education Assistance Authority through a
 3 domicile determination system. The State Education Assistance Authority shall select six percent
 4 (6%) of the applications submitted on or after the effective date of this section for the 2023-2024
 5 and 2024-2025 school years to verify the domicile requirements are met for the award of a
 6 scholarship grant to an eligible student. As evidence of domicile, the State Education Assistance
 7 Authority may accept the submission of any of the documents set forth under
 8 G.S. 115C-562.3(a). If a parent fails to cooperate with verification efforts under this section, the
 9 State Education Assistance Authority shall revoke the award of the scholarship grant to the
 10 eligible student. In addition, if the State Education Assistance Authority determines that the
 11 certification of the parent contains falsified information, the parent may be subject to
 12 administrative, civil, or criminal penalties. The State Education Assistance Authority shall
 13 include a notice of the potential for the imposition of penalties when requesting certification as
 14 part of the application process.

15 **SECTION 8A.6.(g)** G.S. 115C-562.1(3c) and (5c) are repealed.

16 **SECTION 8A.6.(h)** G.S. 115C-562.1, as amended by subsection (b) of this section,
 17 reads as rewritten:

18 "(3a) Eligible student. – A student residing in North Carolina who has not yet
 19 received a high school diploma and who meets all of the following
 20 requirements:

- 21 a. Is eligible to attend a North Carolina public school pursuant to Article
 22 25 of this Chapter. A child who is the age of 4 on or before April 16 is
 23 eligible to attend the following school year if the principal, or
 24 equivalent, of the school in which the child seeks to enroll finds that
 25 the student meets the requirements established by the Authority
 26 pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.2(d) and those findings are submitted to the
 27 Authority.
- 28 b. Has not been enrolled in a postsecondary institution as a full-time
 29 student taking at least 12 hours of academic credit.
- 30 c. Has not been placed in a nonpublic school or facility by a public
 31 agency at public expense.
- 32 ~~d. Meets one of the following criteria:~~
 - 33 ~~1. Resides in a household with an income level not in excess of~~
 34 ~~two hundred percent (200%) of the amount required for the~~
 35 ~~student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch~~
 36 ~~program. The Authority shall not count any distribution from~~
 37 ~~the estate of a decedent in calculating the income level of the~~
 38 ~~applicant's household for the purposes of determining~~
 39 ~~eligibility for a scholarship under this sub-sub-subdivision.~~
 - 40 ~~2. Is a child in foster care as defined in G.S. 131D-10.2. The~~
 41 ~~Authority shall not consider the household income of the foster~~
 42 ~~parent, as defined in G.S. 131D-10.2, in determining the~~
 43 ~~eligibility of a foster care child."~~

44 **SECTION 8A.6.(i)** G.S. 115C-562.2 reads as rewritten:

45 "**§ 115C-562.2. Scholarship grants.**

46 (a) The Authority shall make available no later than February 1 annually applications to
 47 eligible students for the award of scholarship grants to attend any nonpublic ~~school.~~ school on a
 48 full- or part-time basis. Information about scholarship grants and the application process shall be
 49 made available on the Authority's Web site. Beginning March 15, the Authority shall begin
 50 awarding scholarship grants ~~according to the following criteria:~~ to students who have applied by
 51 March 1 in the following order:

- 1 (1) ~~First priority shall be given to eligible~~ Eligible students who received a
2 scholarship grant for the school year prior to the school year for which the
3 students are ~~applying if those students have applied by March 1.~~ applying.
- 4 (2) ~~After scholarship grants have been awarded to prior recipients as provided in~~
5 ~~subdivision (1) of this subsection, scholarships shall be awarded with~~
6 ~~remaining funds as follows:~~ Eligible students qualifying for a scholarship grant
7 in the amount provided under subdivision (1) of subsection (b2) of this
8 section.
- 9 a. ~~At least fifty percent (50%) of the remaining funds shall be used to~~
10 ~~award scholarship grants to eligible students residing in households~~
11 ~~with an income level not in excess of the amount required for the~~
12 ~~student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program.~~
- 13 b. ~~Repealed by Session Laws 2020-97, s. 3.3(a), effective September 4,~~
14 ~~2020.~~
- 15 e. ~~Any remaining funds shall be used to award scholarship grants to all~~
16 ~~other eligible students.~~
- 17 (3) Eligible students qualifying for a scholarship grant in the amount provided
18 under subdivision (2) of subsection (b2) of this section.
- 19 (4) Eligible students qualifying for a scholarship grant in the amount provided
20 under subdivision (3) of subsection (b2) of this section.
- 21 (5) All other students.
- 22 (b) ~~Scholarship grants awarded to eligible students residing in households with an income~~
23 ~~level not in excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or~~
24 ~~reduced-price lunch program shall be, per year per eligible student, in an amount of up to ninety~~
25 ~~percent (90%) as a full-time student or up to forty-five percent (45%) as a part-time student of~~
26 ~~the average State per pupil allocation for average daily membership in the prior fiscal year.~~
27 ~~Scholarship grants awarded to eligible students residing in households with an income level in~~
28 ~~excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch~~
29 ~~program shall be for amounts of not more than ninety percent (90%) of the required tuition and~~
30 ~~fees as a full-time student or forty-five percent (45%) of the required tuition and fees as a~~
31 ~~part-time student for the nonpublic school the eligible child will attend. Tuition and fees for a~~
32 ~~nonpublic school may include tuition and fees for books, transportation, equipment, or other~~
33 ~~items required by the nonpublic school. No scholarship grant shall exceed, per year per eligible~~
34 ~~student, an amount equal to ninety percent (90%) for a full-time student or forty-five percent~~
35 ~~(45%) for a part-time student of the average State per pupil allocation for average daily~~
36 ~~membership in the prior fiscal year, and no scholarship grant shall exceed the required tuition~~
37 ~~and fees for the nonpublic school the eligible student will attend.~~
- 38 (b1) ~~Repealed by Session Laws 2021-180, s. 8A.3(e), effective July 1, 2021.~~
- 39 (b2) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, scholarship grants shall be awarded to
40 eligible students as follows:
- 41 (1) For students either (i) residing in households with an income level not in
42 excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or
43 reduced-price lunch program or (ii) who are a child in foster care as defined
44 in G.S. 131D-10.2, per year per eligible student, an amount of up to one
45 hundred percent (100%) of the average State per pupil allocation for average
46 daily membership in the prior fiscal year.
- 47 (2) For students residing in households with an income level between the amount
48 required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch
49 program and not in excess of two hundred percent (200%) of that amount, per
50 year per eligible student, an amount of up to ninety percent (90%) of the

1 average State per pupil allocation for average daily membership in the prior
 2 fiscal year.

3 (3) For students residing in households with an income level of between two
 4 hundred percent (200%) of the amount required for the student to qualify for
 5 the federal free or reduced-price lunch program and not in excess of four
 6 hundred fifty percent (450%) of that amount, per year per eligible student, an
 7 amount of up to sixty percent (60%) of the average State per pupil allocation
 8 for average daily membership in the prior fiscal year.

9 (4) For all students, per year per eligible student, an amount of up to forty-five
 10 percent (45%) of the average State per pupil allocation for average daily
 11 membership in the prior fiscal year, unless the student qualifies for a higher
 12 amount under this subsection.

13 (b3) Tuition and fees for a nonpublic school may include tuition and fees for books,
 14 transportation, equipment, or other items required by the nonpublic school.

15 (b4) No scholarship grant shall exceed, per year per eligible student, an amount equal to
 16 one hundred percent (100%) of the average State per pupil allocation for average daily
 17 membership in the prior fiscal year, and no scholarship grant shall exceed the required tuition
 18 and fees for the nonpublic school the eligible student will attend.

19"

20 **SECTION 8A.6.(j)** G.S. 115C-562.3, as amended by subsection (c) of this section,
 21 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 115C-562.3. Verification of eligibility; information from other State agencies.**

23 (a) To verify that the domicile requirements of G.S. 115C-366 are met for State
 24 residency, the Authority shall establish a domicile determination system and shall establish rules
 25 for determination of domicile within the State in accordance with this subsection. The Division
 26 of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Instruction,
 27 the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department
 28 of Revenue, the State Board of Elections, and the State Chief Information Officer each shall
 29 expeditiously cooperate with the Authority in verifying electronically, or by other similarly
 30 effective and efficient means, evidence submitted to the Authority for the purposes of
 31 establishing the domicile required by G.S. 115C-366 for State residency. The Authority shall
 32 accept any of the following as evidence of domicile within the State:

- 33 (1) Verified State drivers license or State identification card.
- 34 (2) Verified State voter registration.
- 35 (3) Verified receipt of public benefits from a State agency.
- 36 (4) Verified filing of State income taxes for the year prior to application.
- 37 (5) Verified enrollment in a North Carolina public school at the time of
 38 application.
- 39 (6) An electronically submitted copy of one of the following current documents
 40 that show the name of the parent and an address within the State:
 - 41 a. A utility bill.
 - 42 b. A bank statement.
 - 43 c. A government check.
 - 44 d. A paycheck.
 - 45 e. Any other government document.

46 (a1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Authority may
 47 seek verification of information on any application for scholarship grants from eligible students.
 48 The Authority shall select and verify ~~six percent (6%)~~ four percent (4%) of applications for
 49 scholarship grant funds awarded under G.S. 115C-562.2(b2)(1) through (b2)(3) annually,
 50 including those with apparent errors on the face of the application. The Authority shall establish
 51 rules for the verification process and may use the federal verification requirements process for

1 free and reduced-price lunch applications as guidance for those rules. If a household fails to
 2 cooperate with verification efforts, the Authority shall revoke the award of the scholarship grant
 3 to the eligible student.

4 (b) Household members of applicants for scholarship grants shall authorize the Authority
 5 to access information needed for verification efforts conducted under this section held by other
 6 State agencies, including the Department of Revenue, the Department of Health and Human
 7 Services, and the Department of Public Instruction.

8 (c) By December 1 of each year, the Department of Public Instruction shall provide the
 9 Authority the average State per pupil allocation for that fiscal year to determine the maximum
 10 scholarship amount for eligible students to be awarded in the following fiscal year in accordance
 11 with ~~G.S. 115C-562.2(b)~~. G.S. 115C-562.2(b2)."

12 **SECTION 8A.6.(k)** G.S. 115C-562.8, as amended by subsection (e) of this section,
 13 reads as rewritten:

14 "**§ 115C-562.8. The Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve.**

15 (a) The Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve is established as a reserve to be
 16 administered by the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for the purpose of
 17 allocating funds to the Authority for the award of scholarship grants in accordance with this Part.
 18 The Reserve shall consist of monies appropriated from the General Fund to the Reserve by the
 19 General Assembly and any interest accrued to it thereon. These funds shall be used to award
 20 scholarship grants to eligible students for the school year that begins in the fiscal year following
 21 the fiscal year in which the appropriation is made to the Reserve. The Board of Governors shall
 22 only use monies in the Reserve in accordance with the purposes set forth in this section. Funds
 23 appropriated in a particular fiscal year to be used for the award of scholarships in the following
 24 fiscal year that are unexpended at the end of the fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the funds
 25 were appropriated shall be first used for the purpose set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (d)
 26 of this section, if applicable. After funds are used for this purpose, any unexpended funds from
 27 the funds appropriated in a particular fiscal year to be used for the award of scholarships in the
 28 following fiscal year shall be carried forward for one fiscal year and may be used for the purposes
 29 set forth in this section. Funds carried forward pursuant to this section that have not been spent
 30 within one fiscal year shall revert to the General Fund.

31 (b) The General Assembly finds that, due to the critical need in this State to provide
 32 opportunity for school choice for North Carolina students, it is imperative that the State provide
 33 an increase of funds for 15 years to the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve. Therefore,
 34 there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Reserve the following amounts for each fiscal
 35 year to be used for the purposes set forth in this section:

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2017-2018	\$44,840,000
2018-2019	\$54,840,000
2019-2020	\$64,840,000
2020-2021	\$74,840,000
2021-2022	\$84,840,000
2022-2023	\$94,840,000
2023-2024	\$176,540,000
2024-2025	\$191,540,000
2025-2026	\$206,540,000 <u>\$415,540,000</u>
2026-2027	\$221,540,000 <u>\$430,540,000</u>
2027-2028	\$236,540,000 <u>\$445,540,000</u>
2028-2029	\$251,540,000 <u>\$460,540,000</u>
2029-2030	\$266,540,000 <u>\$475,540,000</u>
2030-2031	\$281,540,000 <u>\$490,540,000</u>
2031-2032	\$296,540,000 <u>\$505,540,000</u>

1 For the 2032-2033 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the
2 General Fund to the Reserve the sum of ~~three hundred eleven million five hundred forty thousand~~
3 ~~dollars (\$311,540,000)~~ five hundred twenty million five hundred forty thousand dollars
4 (\$520,540,000) to be used for the purposes set forth in this section. When developing the base
5 budget, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year specified in this subsection, the Director
6 of the Budget shall include the appropriated amount specified in this subsection for that fiscal
7 year.

8 (c) Of the funds allocated to the Authority to award scholarship grants under this Part,
9 the Authority may retain up to two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the funds appropriated each
10 fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the scholarship grant program.

11 (d) Any unexpended funds at the end of a fiscal year from the funds appropriated in a
12 particular fiscal year to be used for the award of scholarships in the following fiscal year shall be
13 used as follows:

14 (1) Up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) may be used by the Authority
15 to contract with a nonprofit corporation representing parents and families for
16 outreach and scholarship education and application assistance for parents and
17 students pursuant to Part 4A of this Article.

18 (2) Any remaining funds shall be carried forward for one fiscal year pursuant to
19 subsection (a) of this section.

20 (e) The Authority shall make reasonable efforts to ensure the amount of scholarship
21 grants awarded for a school year do not exceed the funds that are available for the awards to
22 eligible students in each fiscal year. However, notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, to
23 ensure that as many eligible students receive scholarship grants in a timely manner as possible,
24 the Authority may use up to thirty percent (30%) of the unencumbered cash balance in the
25 Reserve in a fiscal year if the funds required to award scholarship grants to eligible students for
26 a school year exceed the funds available for the distribution of those awards. If the Authority
27 expends funds in excess of those available in the Reserve for a particular school year, the
28 Authority shall submit the report required by G.S. 115C-562.7(b1)."

29 **SECTION 8A.6.(l)** G.S. 115C-12(9d)a. reads as rewritten:

30 "a. The Board may develop exit standards that shall be required for high
31 school graduation. The Board shall develop a sequence of courses that
32 shall be available in all public school units to allow a student to
33 complete the credits required for graduation in a three-year period. The
34 Board shall indicate on a student's transcript if the student graduates
35 from a public high school within three years of entering the ninth
36 grade. A governing body of a public school unit shall not require any
37 additional credits beyond those mandated by the Board for high school
38 graduation. The Board shall require the following for high school
39 graduation:

- 40 1. Successful completion of instruction in cardiopulmonary
41 resuscitation as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10).
- 42 2. A passing grade in the semester course on the Founding
43 Principles of the United States of America and the State of
44 North Carolina described in G.S. 115C-81.45(d)(1)."

45 **SECTION 8A.6.(m)** G.S. 115C-12(9d)b.2. reads as rewritten:

46 "2. The Board shall not require any student to prepare a high
47 school graduation project as a condition of graduation from
48 high school; ~~local boards of education may, however, require~~
49 ~~their students to complete a high school graduation as provided~~
50 ~~in G.S. 115C-47(54a).school."~~

51 **SECTION 8A.6.(n)** G.S. 115C-47(54a) is repealed.

1 **SECTION 8A.6.(o)** G.S. 115C-12(32) reads as rewritten:

2 "(32) Duty to Encourage Early Entry of Motivated Students into Four-Year College
3 Programs. –

4 a. The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Education
5 Cabinet, shall work with local school administrative units, the
6 constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina, local
7 community colleges, and private colleges and universities to (i)
8 encourage early entry of motivated students into two-year or four-year
9 ~~college-postsecondary~~ programs and to (ii) ensure that there are
10 opportunities at two-year and four-year institutions for academically
11 talented high school students to get an early start on college
12 coursework, either at nearby institutions or through distance learning.

13 b. The State Board of Education shall also adopt policies directing school
14 guidance counselors in all public school units to make ninth grade
15 students aware of the potential to complete the high school courses
16 required for college entry in a three-year ~~period~~ period and for the
17 availability of early graduate scholarships under Part 7 of Article 23
18 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes for those students."

19 **SECTION 8A.6.(p)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

20 "(53a) To Encourage Early High School Graduation. – Local boards of education
21 shall offer a sequence of courses in accordance with G.S. 115C-12(9d) and
22 advise students using this sequence to graduate within three years of entering
23 the ninth grade of the availability of early graduate scholarships under Part 7
24 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes."

25 **SECTION 8A.6.(q)** G.S. 115C-218.85(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision

26 to read:

27 "(6) A charter school shall offer a sequence of courses in accordance with
28 G.S. 115C-12(9d) and shall advise students using this sequence to graduate
29 within three years of entering the ninth grade of the availability of early
30 graduate scholarships under Part 7 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General
31 Statutes."

32 **SECTION 8A.6.(r)** G.S. 115C-238.66(1) is amended by adding a new
33 sub-subdivision to read:

34 "f. The board of directors shall offer a sequence of courses in accordance
35 with G.S. 115C-12(9d) and shall advise students using this sequence
36 to graduate within three years of entering the ninth grade of the
37 availability of early graduate scholarships under Part 7 of Article 23
38 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes."

39 **SECTION 8A.6.(s)** The governing body of a public school unit shall report to the
40 Department of Public Instruction on the number of rising eleventh graders utilizing the sequence
41 of courses to complete the credits required for graduation in a three-year period by May 15, 2025,
42 and May 15, 2026. The Department of Public Instruction shall report the total number of rising
43 eleventh graders utilizing the sequence of courses to complete the credits required for graduation
44 in a three-year period by public school unit to the Fiscal Research Division by June 1, 2025, and
45 June 1, 2026.

46 **SECTION 8A.6.(t)** The State Board of Education shall adopt an emergency rule no
47 later than August 1, 2023, to establish the graduation requirements and sequence of courses
48 required by this section. Governing bodies of public school units shall advise students beginning
49 with the 2023-2024 school year of this sequence, the option to graduate within three years of
50 entering the ninth grade, and the availability of early graduate scholarships. Students enrolled in

1 the tenth grade during the 2023-2024 school year who complete the sequence of courses required
2 for graduation in a three-year period shall be eligible to graduate in the 2024-2025 school year.

3 **SECTION 8A.6.(u)** Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended
4 by adding a new Part to read:

5 "Part 6. The Early Graduate Scholarship Program.

6 **"§ 116-209.100. Definitions.**

7 The following definitions apply to this Part:

- 8 (1) Eligible postsecondary institution. – A school that is:
9 a. A constituent institution of The University of North Carolina as
10 defined in G.S. 116-2(4).
11 b. A community college as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2).
12 c. A nonprofit postsecondary institution as defined in G.S. 116-280(3).
13 (2) Matriculated status. – Being recognized as a student in a defined program of
14 study leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate at an eligible postsecondary
15 institution.
16 (3) Program. – The Early Graduate Scholarship Program.
17 (4) Reserve Fund. – Reserve Fund for Early Graduate Scholarships.
18 (5) Scholarship. – An Early Graduate Scholarship for education awarded under
19 this Part.

20 **"§ 116-209.101. Eligibility requirements for a scholarship and duration of scholarship.**

21 (a) In order to be eligible to receive a scholarship under this Part, a student seeking a
22 degree, diploma, or certificate at an eligible postsecondary institution must meet all of the
23 following requirements:

- 24 (1) Graduate from a State public high school within three years of entering the
25 ninth grade. The Department of Public Instruction shall indicate on a student's
26 transcript provided to the Authority that the student is an early graduate
27 pursuant to this section.
28 (2) Qualify as a resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in
29 G.S. 116-143.1 and in accordance with the coordinated and centralized
30 residency determination process administered by the Authority.
31 (3) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as a
32 student in a matriculated status at an eligible postsecondary institution.
33 (4) Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

34 (b) A student is eligible to receive the scholarship for no more than two semesters in the
35 two academic years immediately following the student's graduation from high school.

36 **"§ 116-209.102. Scholarship amounts; amounts dependent on availability of funds.**

37 (a) The amount of a scholarship awarded under this Part to a student at an eligible
38 postsecondary institution shall be determined annually by the Authority using a payment
39 schedule that is based upon a corresponding value of student financial need as defined by federal
40 methodology to the income eligibility for a scholarship grant awarded under G.S. 115C-562.2.
41 The Authority shall publish the payment schedule for the Program in an easily accessible and
42 understandable format. No scholarship awarded to a student under this Part shall exceed the cost
43 of attendance at the eligible postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

44 (b) If a student who is eligible for a scholarship under this Part also receives a scholarship
45 or other grant covering the cost of attendance at the eligible postsecondary institution for which
46 the scholarship is awarded, then the amount of the scholarship shall be reduced by an appropriate
47 amount determined by the Authority so that the total amount of scholarships and grants received
48 by the student does not exceed the cost of attendance for the institution. The cost of attendance
49 shall be determined by the Authority for each eligible postsecondary institution.

50 (c) In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each eligible student who has
51 applied in accordance with the application process and the schedule established by the Authority

1 with a full scholarship as provided by this Part, the Authority shall first award scholarships to
2 those students whose student financial need as defined by federal methodology corresponds to
3 those eligible to be awarded scholarship grants in accordance with G.S. 115C-562.2(b2)(1) and
4 (b2)(2).

5 **"§ 116-209.103. Scholarship administration; reporting requirements.**

6 (a) The scholarships provided for in this Part shall be administered by the Authority under
7 rules adopted by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Part. The rules shall
8 include an application process and schedule, notification and disbursement procedures, and
9 standards for reporting.

10 (b) The Authority shall report no later than December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter to
11 the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The report shall contain, for the previous
12 academic year, the dollar amount of awards disbursed, the number of eligible students receiving
13 funds, and a breakdown of the eligible postsecondary institutions that received the funds.

14 (c) Scholarship funds unexpended shall remain available for future scholarships to be
15 awarded under this Part.

16 **"§ 116-209.104. Reserve Fund for Early Graduate Scholarships.**

17 (a) There is established the Reserve Fund for Early Graduate Scholarships as a reserve
18 consisting of the following monies:

19 (1) Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the Program from the
20 General Fund in the Current Operations Appropriations Act for a fiscal year.

21 (2) All interest earned on these funds.

22 (b) Monies in the Reserve Fund shall not revert at the end of each fiscal year but shall
23 remain available until expended for the purposes of this Part.

24 (c) The Authority may use up to one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the funds available
25 in the Reserve Fund each fiscal year for administrative costs related to the Program."

26 **SECTION 8A.6.(v)** Subsections (a) through (f) of this section are effective when
27 they become law and apply to applications for scholarship grants beginning with the 2023-2024
28 school year. Applications submitted for the 2023-2024 school year prior to the effective date of
29 this section shall be deemed to have met the requirements of G.S. 115C-562.1(3a)a., as enacted
30 by this section, and shall not be required to meet the verification requirement of
31 G.S. 115C-562.3(a), as enacted by this section. Subsections (g) through (k) of this section
32 become effective July 1, 2023, and apply to applications for scholarship grants beginning with
33 the 2024-2025 school year. Subsection (u) of this section is effective when it becomes law, and
34 scholarships shall be awarded as provided in that section beginning with the 2025-2026 school
35 year. Except as otherwise provided, this section is effective when it becomes law.

36
37 **CONFORM IN-STATE TUITION FOR MILITARY-RELATED INDIVIDUALS TO**
38 **FEDERAL LAW**

39 **SECTION 8A.10.(a)** G.S. 115D-39(a) reads as rewritten:

40 "(a) The State Board of Community Colleges shall fix and regulate all tuition and fees
41 charged to students for applying to or attending any institution pursuant to this Chapter.

42 The receipts from all student tuition and fees, other than student activity fees, shall be State
43 funds and shall be deposited as provided by regulations of the State Board of Community
44 Colleges.

45 The legal resident limitation with respect to tuition, set forth in G.S. 116-143.1 and
46 G.S. 116-143.3, shall apply to students attending institutions operating pursuant to this Chapter;
47 ~~provided, however, that when Chapter~~, except as follows:

48 (1) When an employer other than the ~~Armed Forces~~, employer of a qualifying
49 federal services member, as that term is defined in G.S. 116-143.3, pays
50 tuition for an employee to attend an institution operating pursuant to this
51 Chapter and when the employee works at a North Carolina business location,

1 the employer shall be charged the in-State tuition rate; ~~provided further,~~
2 ~~however, a rate.~~

3 (2) A community college may charge in-State tuition to up to one percent (1%)
4 of its out-of-state students, rounded up to the next whole number, to
5 accommodate the families transferred by business, the families transferred by
6 industry, or the civilian families ~~transferred by the Armed Forces, of~~
7 qualifying federal services member transferred to a permanent duty station,
8 consistent with the provisions of G.S. 116-143.3, into the State.

9 (3) ~~Notwithstanding these requirements, a~~ A refugee who lawfully entered the
10 United States and who is living in this State shall be deemed to qualify as a
11 domiciliary of this State under G.S. 116-143.1(a)(1) and as a State resident for
12 community college tuition purposes as defined in G.S. 116-143.1(a)(2).

13 (4) ~~Also, a~~ A nonresident of the United States who has resided in North Carolina
14 for a 12-month qualifying period and has filed an immigrant petition with the
15 United States Immigration and Naturalization Service shall be considered a
16 State resident for community college tuition purposes."

17 **SECTION 8A.10.(b)** G.S. 116-143.3 reads as rewritten:

18 "**§ 116-143.3. Tuition of ~~Armed Forces personnel~~ qualifying federal services members and**
19 **their spouses and dependents.**

20 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

21 (1) ~~The term "abode" shall mean the~~ Abode. – The place where a person actually
22 lives, whether temporarily or permanently; the term "abide" shall mean to live
23 in a given place.

24 (2) ~~The term "Armed Forces" shall mean the~~ Armed Forces. – The United States
25 Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy; the North Carolina
26 National Guard; and any reserve component of the foregoing.

27 (2a) Dependent. – A spouse or dependent child.

28 (3) Repealed by Session Laws 2007-484, s. 15, effective August 30, 2007.

29 (4) Qualifying federal services member. – Any of the following:

30 a. A member of the Armed Forces who is on active duty for a period of
31 more than 30 days, as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 101.

32 b. A member of the Foreign Service, as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 3903, who
33 is on active duty for a period of more than 30 days.

34 (b) ~~Any active duty member of the Armed Forces qualifying for admission~~ qualifying
35 federal services member admitted to an institution of higher ~~education~~ education, as defined in
36 ~~G.S. 116-143.1(a)(3)~~ G.S. 116-143.1(a)(3), but not qualifying as a resident for tuition purposes
37 under G.S. 116-143.1 shall be charged the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees for
38 enrollments while the ~~member of the Armed Forces is abiding in this State incident to active~~
39 ~~military duty~~ qualifying federal services member's permanent duty station is in this State. In the
40 event the ~~active duty member of the Armed Forces~~ qualifying federal services member is
41 reassigned outside of North Carolina or retires, the member shall continue to be eligible for the
42 in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees so long as the member is continuously enrolled
43 in the degree or other program in which the member was enrolled at the time the member is
44 reassigned. In the event the qualifying federal services member is an active duty member of the
45 Armed Forces and receives an Honorable Discharge from military service, the member shall
46 continue to be eligible for the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees so long as the
47 member establishes residency in North Carolina within 30 days after the discharge and is
48 continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which the member was enrolled at the
49 time the member is discharged.

50 (b1), (b2) Repealed by Session Laws 2004-130, s. 1, effective August 1, 2004.

1 (c) Any dependent ~~relative of a member of the Armed Forces who is abiding in this State~~
2 ~~incident to active military duty, as defined by the Board of Governors of The University of North~~
3 ~~Carolina and by the State Board of Community Colleges while sharing the abode of that member~~
4 ~~dependent of a qualifying federal services member with a permanent duty station in this State~~
5 shall be eligible to be charged the in-State tuition rate, if the dependent ~~relative~~ qualifies for
6 admission to an institution of higher ~~education~~ education, as defined in G.S. 116-143.1(a)(3).
7 The dependent ~~relatives~~ shall comply with the requirements of the Selective Service System, if
8 applicable, in order to be accorded this benefit. In the event the ~~member of the Armed Forces~~
9 qualifying federal services member is reassigned outside of North Carolina or retires, the
10 dependent ~~relative~~ shall continue to be eligible for the in-State tuition rate and applicable
11 mandatory fees so long as the dependent ~~relative~~ is continuously enrolled in the degree or other
12 program in which the dependent ~~relative~~ was enrolled at the time the member is reassigned or
13 retires. In the event the qualifying federal services member is an active duty member of the
14 Armed Forces and receives an Honorable Discharge from military service, the dependent ~~relative~~
15 shall continue to be eligible for the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees so long as
16 the dependent ~~relative~~ establishes residency within North Carolina within 30 days after the
17 discharge and is continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which the dependent
18 ~~relative~~ was enrolled at the time the member is discharged.

19 (c1) A dependent ~~relative~~ child who resides with a member of the Armed Forces who is
20 reassigned outside of the State incident to active military duty shall remain eligible to be charged
21 the in-State tuition rate if all of the following are met:

22 (1) At the time the dependent ~~relative~~ child applies for admission to the institution
23 of higher education, as defined in G.S. 116-143.1(a)(3), the dependent ~~relative~~
24 child both:

25 a. Is enrolled in a North Carolina high school.

26 b. Meets the requirements of subsection (c) of this section.

27 (2) Upon admission, the dependent ~~relative~~ child enrolls in the institution of
28 higher education no later than the fall academic semester immediately
29 following notice of admission and remains continuously enrolled.

30 (d) The person applying for the benefit of this section has the burden of proving
31 entitlement to the benefit.

32 (e) A person charged less than the out-of-state tuition rate solely by reason of this section
33 shall not, during the period of receiving that benefit, qualify for or be the basis of conferring the
34 benefit of G.S. 116-143.1(g), (h), (i), (j), (k), or (l)."

35 **SECTION 8A.10.(c)** G.S. 116-235(b)(1) reads as rewritten:

36 "(1) Admission of Students. – The School shall admit students in accordance with
37 criteria, standards, and procedures established by the Board of Trustees. To be
38 eligible to be considered for admission, an applicant must be either a legal
39 resident of the State, as defined by G.S. 116-143.1(a)(1), or a ~~student whose~~
40 ~~parent is an active duty member of the Armed Forces, as defined by~~
41 ~~G.S. 116-143.3(2), who is abiding in this State incident to active military duty~~
42 ~~at the time the application is submitted, dependent of a qualifying federal~~
43 services member eligible under G.S. 116-143.3, provided the student shares
44 the abode of that parent; eligibility to remain enrolled in the School shall
45 terminate at the end of any school year during which a student becomes a
46 nonresident of the State. The Board of Trustees shall ensure, insofar as
47 possible without jeopardizing admission standards, that an equal number of
48 qualified applicants is admitted to the program and to the residential summer
49 institutes in science and mathematics from each of North Carolina's
50 congressional districts. In no event shall the differences in the number of
51 qualified applicants offered admission to the program from each of North

1 Carolina's congressional districts be more than two and one-half percentage
 2 points from the average number per district who are offered admission."
 3 **SECTION 8A.10.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law. Qualifying
 4 federal services members and their spouses and dependent children shall be eligible to be charged
 5 the in-State tuition rate beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year.

6
 7 **ALLOW PREAPPROVAL OF PESA EXPENSES IN LIEU OF EXPENSE REPORTS, AS**
 8 **RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNAL AUDITOR**

9 **SECTION 8A.11.(a)** G.S. 115C-592(b2) reads as rewritten:
 10 "(b2) Disbursement and Deposit of Awards. – Scholarship funds shall be used only for
 11 tuition and qualifying education expenses as provided in G.S. 115C-595. Recipients shall receive
 12 the scholarship funds in two equal amounts, one-half in each semester of the school year. The
 13 first deposit of funds to a PESA shall be subject to the execution of the parental agreement
 14 required by G.S. 115C-595. The parent shall then receive an electronic account with the prepaid
 15 funds loaded in the electronic account at the beginning of the school year. ~~After the initial~~
 16 ~~disbursement of funds, each subsequent, semester disbursement of funds shall be subject to the~~
 17 ~~submission by the parent of an expense report. The expense report shall be submitted~~
 18 ~~electronically and shall include documentation that the student received an education, as~~
 19 ~~described in G.S. 115C-595(a)(1), for no less than 70 days of the applicable semester. Requests~~
 20 for qualifying educational expenses are subject to a preapproval process established by the
 21 Authority prior to the disbursement of funds from the electronic account. An expense report shall
 22 not be required for any expenses that have been preapproved by the Authority. The electronic
 23 account shall be renewed upon the receipt of the parental agreement under G.S. 115C-595 for
 24 recipients awarded scholarship funds in subsequent school years."

25 **SECTION 8A.11.(b)** G.S. 115C-595(a)(1) reads as rewritten:
 26 "(1) Use at least a portion of the scholarship funds to provide an ~~education~~
 27 education, for no less than 70 days of each semester, to the eligible student in,
 28 at a minimum, the subjects of English language arts, mathematics, social
 29 studies, and science."

30 **SECTION 8A.11.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

31
 32 **PERSONAL EDUCATION STUDENT ACCOUNT UNEXPENDED FUNDS TO**
 33 **ESTABLISH AN INSTITUTIONAL TRUST FUND**

34 **SECTION 8A.13.(a)** G.S. 115C-600 reads as rewritten:

35 **"§ 115C-600. Funds for Personal Education Student Accounts.**

36 (a) The General Assembly finds that due to the continued growth and ongoing need in
 37 this State to provide opportunity for school choice for children with disabilities, it is imperative
 38 that the State provide an increase in funds of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000) each fiscal
 39 year for 10 years for the Personal Education Student Accounts for Children with Disabilities
 40 Program. To that end, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of
 41 The University of North Carolina the following amounts each fiscal year to be allocated to the
 42 Authority for the Program in accordance with this Article:

43 Fiscal Year	Appropriation
44 2023-2024	\$48,943,166
45 2024-2025	\$49,943,166
46 2025-2026	\$50,943,166
47 2026-2027	\$51,943,166
48 2027-2028	\$52,943,166
49 2028-2029	\$53,943,166
50 2029-2030	\$54,943,166
51 2030-2031	\$55,943,166

1	2031-2032	\$56,943,166
2	2032-2033 and each subsequent fiscal year thereafter	\$57,943,166

3 When developing the base budget, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year specified
4 in this section, the Director of the Budget shall include the appropriated amount specified in this
5 section for that fiscal year.

6 (b) The Authority shall make reasonable efforts to ensure the amount of scholarship funds
7 awarded for a school year do not exceed the funds that are available for awards to eligible students
8 in each fiscal year. However, to ensure that as many eligible students receive scholarship funds
9 in a timely manner as possible, at the end of each fiscal year, the Authority shall place any
10 unexpended funds appropriated for the Program into an institutional trust fund established in
11 accordance with the provisions of G.S. 116-36.1 to accrue a cash balance in the institutional trust
12 fund of up to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000). The Authority shall use these funds to award
13 scholarship funds in any fiscal year that the funds required to award scholarships to eligible
14 students for a school year exceed the funds available for the distribution of those awards. All
15 interest earned on these funds shall also be placed in the institutional trust fund established
16 pursuant to this subsection. For any fiscal year in which funds are expended from the institutional
17 trust fund, the Authority shall submit a report as required by G.S. 115C-598(b). In any fiscal year
18 in which the cash balance of the institutional trust fund equals ten million dollars (\$10,000,000),
19 any unexpended funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year from the funds appropriated for the
20 Program shall revert to the General Fund."

21 **SECTION 8A.13.(b)** G.S. 115C-598 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 115C-598. Reporting requirements.**

23 (a) The Authority shall report annually, no later than October 15, to the Joint Legislative
24 Education Oversight Committee on the following information from the prior school year:

- 25 (1) Total number, grade level, race, ethnicity, and sex of eligible students
26 receiving scholarship funds.
- 27 (2) Total amount of scholarship funding awarded.
- 28 (3) Number of students previously enrolled in public schools in the prior semester
29 by the previously attended local education agency.
- 30 (4) Nonpublic schools in which scholarship recipients are enrolled, including
31 numbers of scholarship recipients at each nonpublic school.
- 32 (5) The number of substantiated cases of fraud by recipients and the number of
33 parents or students removed from the program for noncompliance with the
34 provisions of this Article.

35 (b) For any fiscal year in which the Authority uses funds as provided under
36 G.S. 115C-600(b), the Authority shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
37 Committee and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly by April 1 of that fiscal
38 year on at least the following:

- 39 (1) The methodology used by the Authority for determining the awards for the
40 school year, including the number of eligible students and the amount of
41 scholarship funds that were awarded under G.S. 115C-592.
- 42 (2) The actual number of eligible students and the amount of scholarship funds
43 received by eligible students for that school year.
- 44 (3) The amount of funds used pursuant to G.S. 115C-600(b) to fully fund the
45 awards.
- 46 (4) Any legislative recommendations, including funding amounts, for the
47 Program for the next fiscal year."

48 **SECTION 8A.13.(c)** G.S. 115C-597(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

49 "(4) Monitoring and control of spending scholarship funds deposited in a ~~personal~~
50 ~~education savings account.~~ PESA."

1 **SECTION 8A.13.(d)** This section is effective June 30, 2023, and applies beginning
2 with the award of scholarship funds for the 2023-2024 school year.

3
4 **PCP AND PSYCHIATRISTS FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM**

5 **SECTION 8A.14.(a)** Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- 6 (1) Authority. – The State Education Assistance Authority.
7 (2) Eligible county. – A county designated as a development tier one or
8 development tier two area in the annual ranking performed by the Department
9 of Commerce pursuant to G.S. 143B-437.08.
10 (3) Eligible school. – A medical school at an institution of higher education that
11 is any of the following:
12 a. A postsecondary constituent institution of The University of North
13 Carolina, as defined in G.S. 116-2(4).
14 b. An eligible private postsecondary institution, as defined in
15 G.S. 116-280(3).
16 (4) Eligible student. – A person enrolled in an eligible school for the purpose of
17 becoming licensed as a physician or psychiatrist under Article 1 of Chapter 90
18 of the General Statutes.
19 (5) Loan. – A forgivable loan made under the Program.
20 (6) Program. – Primary Care Providers and Psychiatrists Forgivable Loan
21 Program.

22 **SECTION 8A.14.(b)** Program; Purpose. – Of the nonrecurring funds appropriated
23 from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North
24 Carolina for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to be allocated to the State Education Assistance
25 Authority, there is established the Primary Care Providers and Psychiatrists Forgivable Loan
26 Program to be administered by the Authority. The purpose of the Program is to provide forgivable
27 loans to eligible students who agree to practice primary care medicine or psychiatry on a full-time
28 basis in an eligible county.

29 **SECTION 8A.14.(c)** Eligibility. – The Authority shall establish the criteria for initial
30 and continuing eligibility to participate in the Program, as follows:

- 31 (1) All loan recipients shall be residents of North Carolina and shall attend an
32 eligible school.
33 (2) The Authority shall adopt standards deemed appropriate by the Authority to
34 ensure that only qualified, potential recipients receive a loan under the
35 Program. The standards shall include priority for applicants from eligible
36 counties and may include minimum grade point average and satisfactory
37 academic progress.
38 (3) To the extent funds provided pursuant to this act are insufficient to award
39 forgivable loans to all interested eligible students, the Authority may establish
40 a lottery process for selection of loan recipients from among qualified
41 applicants within criteria established by this section.

42 **SECTION 8A.14.(d)** Loan Terms and Conditions. – To the extent funds are made
43 available for the Program, the following terms and conditions shall apply to each loan made
44 pursuant to this section:

- 45 (1) Promissory note. – All loans shall be evidenced by promissory notes made
46 payable to the Authority.
47 (2) Interest. – All promissory notes shall bear an interest rate established by the
48 Authority that does not exceed ten percent (10%) and is in relation to the
49 current interest rate for non-need-based federal loans made pursuant to Title
50 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Interest shall accrue
51 from the date of disbursement of the loan funds.

- 1 (3) Loan amount. – Loans shall be awarded to eligible students in an amount of
2 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per academic year, per eligible
3 student, up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).
- 4 (4) Forgiveness and repayment. – The Authority shall forgive loans as follows:
5 a. In an amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each year
6 that the recipient is licensed and practicing primary care medicine or
7 psychiatry on a full-time basis in an eligible county, up to a maximum
8 of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) over four years.
9 b. If a loan recipient is practicing in a county that loses its status as an
10 eligible county before the recipient completes his or her service
11 obligation, the Authority shall continue to provide loan forgiveness in
12 accordance with this section as long as the recipient practices in that
13 county without a break in service.
14 c. The Authority shall collect cash repayments when service repayment
15 is not completed. The Authority shall establish the terms for cash
16 repayment, including a minimum monthly repayment amount and
17 maximum period of time to complete repayment.
- 18 (5) Death and disability. – The Authority shall forgive all or part of a loan if it
19 determines that it is impossible for the recipient to repay the loan in cash or
20 service because of the death or disability of the recipient.
- 21 (6) Hardship. – The Authority may grant a forbearance, a deferment, or both in
22 hardship circumstances when a good-faith effort has been made to repay the
23 loan in a timely manner.
- 24 (7) Other. – The Authority may establish other terms and conditions that are
25 necessary or convenient to effectuate the Program.

26 **SECTION 8A.14.(e)** Rulemaking Authority. – The Authority may adopt rules
27 necessary to implement, administer, market, and enforce the provisions of this section.

28 **SECTION 8A.14.(f)** Report to the General Assembly. – The Authority shall report
29 no later than December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter while loans are held or forgiven by the
30 Authority to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative
31 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services regarding the Program and loans awarded
32 pursuant to the Program, including at least the following information:

- 33 (1) Forgivable loans awarded under the Program, including the following:
34 a. Demographic information regarding loan recipients.
35 b. Number of loan recipients by eligible medical school.
- 36 (2) Placement and repayment rates, including the following:
37 a. Number of loan recipients who have been employed in primary care
38 medicine or psychiatry on a full-time basis in an eligible county within
39 two years of graduation from an eligible medical school.
40 b. Number of loan recipients who have elected cash repayment in lieu of
41 service repayment and their years of service, if any, prior to beginning
42 cash repayment.
- 43 (3) Recommendations to improve the Program and increase the number of
44 licensed physicians practicing primary care medicine and psychiatry in
45 eligible counties.

46 **SECTION 8A.14.(g)** This section applies beginning with eligible students enrolled
47 in the 2024-2025 academic year.

48
49 **PART IX. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

50
51 **PART IX-A. AGING AND ADULT SERVICES**

1
2 **CONFORMING PARITY CHANGES PERTAINING TO MONTHLY PAYMENTS FOR**
3 **STATE-COUNTY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS RESIDING IN IN-HOME**
4 **LIVING ARRANGEMENTS**

5 **SECTION 9A.1.** G.S. 108A-47.1, as amended by Section 9A.3 of S.L. 2021-180,
6 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 108A-47.1. Special Assistance in-home payments.**

8 (a) The Department of Health and Human Services ~~may~~shall use funds from the existing
9 State-County Special Assistance budget to provide Special Assistance payments to eligible
10 individuals 18 years of age or older in in-home living arrangements. The standard monthly
11 payment to individuals enrolled in the Special Assistance in-home program shall be one hundred
12 percent (100%) of the monthly payment the individual would receive if the individual resided in
13 an adult care home and qualified for Special Assistance, ~~except if a lesser payment amount is~~
14 ~~appropriate for the individual as determined by the local case manager.~~ Assistance. The
15 Department shall implement Special Assistance in-home eligibility policies and procedures to
16 assure that in-home program participants are those individuals who need and, but for the in-home
17 program, would seek placement in an adult care home facility. The Department's policies and
18 procedures shall include the use of a ~~functional~~an assessment.

19 (b) All county departments of social services shall participate in the State-County Special
20 Assistance in-home program by making Special Assistance in-home slots available to individuals
21 who meet the eligibility requirements established by the Department pursuant to subsection (a)
22 of this section. ~~By February 15, 2013, the Department shall establish a formula to determine the~~
23 ~~need for additional State-County Special Assistance in-home slots for each county. Beginning~~
24 ~~July 1, 2014, and each July 1 thereafter, the Department shall review and revise the formula as~~
25 ~~necessary."~~

26
27 **PART IX-B. CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT**

28
29 **REPORTS BY NON-STATE ENTITIES ON THE USE OF DIRECTED GRANT FUNDS**

30 **SECTION 9B.1.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit to the
31 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research
32 Division all reports received under 9 NCAC 03M .0205 from non-State entities, as defined in
33 G.S. 143C-1-1, that are recipients of nonrecurring funds allocated in this Part as a directed grant
34 according to the following schedule:

- 35 (1) By November 1, 2024, all reports on the use of directed grant funds received
36 under this Part for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
37 (2) By November 1, 2025, all reports on the use of directed grant funds received
38 under this Part for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
39

40 **COMMUNITY HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM**

41 **SECTION 9B.2.(a)** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and
42 Human Services, Division of Central Management, Office of Rural Health, for each year of the
43 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for the Community Health Grant Program shall be used to continue
44 to administer the Community Health Grant Program as modified by Section 11A.8 of S.L.
45 2017-57.

46 **SECTION 9B.2.(b)** The Office of Rural Health shall make the final decision about
47 awarding grants under this Program, but no single grant award shall exceed one hundred fifty
48 thousand dollars (\$150,000) during the fiscal year. In awarding grants, the Office of Rural Health
49 shall consider the availability of other funds for the applicant; the incidence of poverty in the area
50 served by the applicant or the number of indigent clients served by the applicant; the availability

1 of, or arrangements for, after-hours care; and collaboration between the applicant and a
2 community hospital or other safety net organizations.

3 **SECTION 9B.2.(c)** Grant recipients shall not use these funds to do any of the
4 following:

- 5 (1) Enhance or increase compensation or other benefits of personnel,
6 administrators, directors, consultants, or any other persons receiving funds for
7 program administration; provided, however, funds may be used to hire or
8 retain health care providers. The use of grant funds for this purpose does not
9 obligate the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to fund
10 compensation beyond the grant period.
- 11 (2) Supplant existing funds, including federal funds traditionally received by
12 federally qualified community health centers. However, grant funds may be
13 used to supplement existing programs that serve the purposes described in
14 subsection (a) of this section.
- 15 (3) Finance or satisfy any existing debt.

16 **SECTION 9B.2.(d)** The Office of Rural Health may use up to two hundred thousand
17 dollars (\$200,000) in recurring funds for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for
18 administrative purposes.

19 **SECTION 9B.2.(e)** By September 1 of each year, the Office of Rural Health shall
20 submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on
21 community health grants that includes at least all of the following information:

- 22 (1) The identity and a brief description of each grantee and each program or
23 service offered by the grantee.
- 24 (2) The amount of funding awarded to each grantee.
- 25 (3) The number of individuals served by each grantee and, for the individuals
26 served, the types of services provided to each.
- 27 (4) Any other information requested by the Office of Rural Health as necessary
28 for evaluating the success of the Community Health Grant Program.

29 **SECTION 9B.2.(f)** By February 1, 2024, the Office of Rural Health shall report to
30 the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on the implementation
31 status of the following Community Health Grant Program requirements enacted by Section 11A.8
32 of S.L. 2017-57:

- 33 (1) Establishment of a Primary Care Advisory Committee and that Committee's
34 development of an objective and equitable process for grading applications
35 for grants funded under the Community Health Grant Program.
- 36 (2) Development of a standardized method for grant recipients to report objective,
37 measurable quality health outcomes.

39 **FUNDS FOR NC DENTAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION'S MISSIONS OF MERCY** 40 **DENTAL CLINICS**

41 **SECTION 9B.3.** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and
42 Human Services, Division of Central Management and Support, Office of Rural Health, and
43 allocated as a directed grant to the NC Dental Society Foundation for its Missions of Mercy
44 dental clinics shall not be spent for any purpose other than to provide direct services to patients
45 and to purchase necessary dental supplies. None of these directed grant funds may be spent for
46 administrative purposes.

48 **EXPANSION OF THE NC LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM/INCENTIVES FOR** 49 **HEALTH PROVIDERS IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS**

50 **SECTION 9B.4.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA Temporary
51 Savings Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Central Management

1 and Support, Office of Rural Health (ORH), for the North Carolina Loan Repayment Program
2 (NC LRP), the following sums shall be allocated for use as provided in this section:

- 3 (1) The sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
4 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in
5 nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be allocated to support
6 the recruitment and retention of additional licensed providers eligible to
7 participate in the NC LRP other than those delineated in subdivisions (2) and
8 (3) of this subsection.
- 9 (2) The sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
10 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in
11 nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be allocated to establish
12 within the NC LRP a new initiative targeting the recruitment and retention of
13 additional licensed primary care physicians in rural and medically
14 underserved areas of the State.
- 15 (3) The sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
16 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in
17 nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be allocated to establish
18 within the NC LRP a new behavioral health provider initiative targeting the
19 recruitment and retention of additional licensed psychiatrists and additional
20 nurse practitioners and physician assistants specializing in mental or
21 behavioral health in rural and medically underserved areas of the State. Under
22 this new behavioral health provider initiative, the ORH shall expand the NC
23 LRP to include the recruitment and retention of mental health and behavioral
24 health providers eligible to participate in the North Carolina State Loan
25 Repayment Program (SLRP).

26 **SECTION 9B.4.(a1)** With respect to the new initiatives authorized by subdivisions
27 (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section:

- 28 (1) For eligible providers with educational loan debt, loan repayment incentives
29 shall not exceed the maximum amounts otherwise allowed under the NC LRP.
- 30 (2) For eligible providers without educational loan debt, bonus payment
31 incentives shall not exceed the maximum amounts otherwise allowed under
32 the NC LRP.
- 33 (3) Private practice settings located in rural and medically underserved areas of
34 the State are deemed automatically eligible practice sites.

35 **SECTION 9B.4.(b)** For each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the ORH may
36 use up to five percent (5%) of the total amount of funds allocated by this section for the following
37 purposes:

- 38 (1) For administrative costs related to the NC LRP, including costs related to
39 establishing and administering the new primary care physician initiative
40 authorized by subdivision (a)(2) of this section and the new behavioral health
41 providers initiative authorized by subdivision (a)(3) of this section, including
42 expansion of the NC LRP to include mental health and behavioral health
43 providers eligible to participate in the SLRP.
- 44 (2) To enter into a contract with the North Carolina Area Health Education Center
45 (AHEC) Program for the development and implementation of a plan to (i)
46 target, recruit, and enroll additional NC LRP participants, as specified in
47 subsection (a) this section, and (ii) retain these providers in rural and
48 medically underserved areas of the State following completion of their service
49 commitments.

50 **SECTION 9B.4.(c)** The ORH shall collect and maintain data on the length of time
51 each NC LRP participant remains employed within the same county as the practice site selected

1 for his or her service commitment, or in a county adjacent to the practice site selected for his or
2 her service commitment.

3 **SECTION 9B.4.(d)** By January 15, 2025, and January 15, 2026, the ORH shall
4 report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal
5 Research Division on the use of funds allocated by subsection (a) of this section. The report shall
6 include at least all of the following:

- 7 (1) A list of expenditures funded by State appropriations.
- 8 (2) The total number of licensed primary care physicians enrolled in the initiative
9 authorized by subdivision (a)(2) of this section, broken down by physician
10 type, practice site, and the type and amount of incentive provided to each NC
11 LRP participant.
- 12 (3) The total number of behavioral health providers enrolled in the NC LRP
13 following implementation of the expansion authorized by subdivision (a)(3)
14 of this section, broken down by provider category, practice site, and the type
15 and amount of incentive provided to each NC LRP participant.
- 16 (4) The length of time each NC LRP participant remains employed at a practice
17 site in a rural and medically underserved area.
- 18 (5) Recommendations for improving recruitment and retention efforts under the
19 NC LRP.

20 21 **EXPANSION OF THE MEDICAL ASSISTANT APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE** 22 **PILOT PROGRAM**

23 **SECTION 9B.5.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health
24 and Human Services, Division of Central Management and Support, Office of Rural Health, the
25 sum of one million seven hundred three thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,703,250) in
26 nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of one million seven hundred three
27 thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,703,250) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal
28 year is allocated as a directed grant to the North Carolina Community Health Center Association
29 (NCCHCA), a nonprofit organization, to fund expansion of its Medical Assistant Apprenticeship
30 Initiative (MAAI) pilot program through the addition of a combined total of at least 50 new
31 apprentice placements at the following sites:

- 32 (1) Rural Health Group, Inc., a community health center and nonprofit
33 organization with existing MAAI pilot program sites located in Edgecombe,
34 Granville, Halifax, Northampton, Vance, and Warren Counties.
- 35 (2) OIC Family Medical Center, a federally qualified health center that is a
36 division of the nonprofit organization known as Opportunities
37 Industrialization Center (OIC), Inc., which has existing MAAI pilot program
38 sites located in Edgecombe and Nash Counties.
- 39 (3) New MAAI pilot program sites at additional community health centers,
40 including each of the following community health centers:
 - 41 a. Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers, Inc., located in Cabarrus
42 County and Rowan County.
 - 43 b. Kintegra Health located in Davidson County.
 - 44 c. United Health Centers located in Forsyth County.

45 **SECTION 9B.5.(b)** The NCCHCA shall include the following information in the
46 two reports required under Section 9B.1 of this act:

- 47 (1) An itemized list of program expenditures funded by the grant, including the
48 number and location of all apprentice placements and the number and location
49 of all new pilot program sites.
- 50 (2) The number of medical assistant apprentices who successfully complete the
51 program and attain certification.

- 1 (3) A description of any benefits derived by community health centers as a result
- 2 of their participation in the MAAI pilot program.
- 3 (4) Any other information the NCCCHA deems relevant to evaluating the success
- 4 of the MAAI pilot program.
- 5

6 FUNDS FOR TELEHEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

7 **SECTION 9B.7A.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA
8 Temporary Savings Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Central
9 Management and Support, Office of Rural Health (ORH), the sum of ten million dollars
10 (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of ten million
11 dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be allocated for
12 the telehealth infrastructure grant program authorized by subsection (b) of this section.

13 **SECTION 9B.7A.(b)** The ORH shall establish a telehealth infrastructure grant
14 program to award grants on a competitive basis to rural healthcare providers to be used to
15 purchase equipment, high-speed internet access, and any other infrastructure necessary to
16 establish telehealth services, defined as the use of two-way, real-time interactive audio and video
17 where the healthcare provider and the patient can hear and see each other. In awarding grants
18 under this program, the ORH is subject to the following requirements and limitations:

- 19 (1) Priority shall be given to independent primary care practices and independent
- 20 obstetrics and gynecology practices.
- 21 (2) The maximum amount of a grant award is two hundred fifty thousand dollars
- 22 (\$250,000) per grantee.

23 **SECTION 9B.7A.(c)** By April 1, 2024, and by April 1, 2025, the ORH shall report
24 to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal
25 Research Division on the grants awarded under this section. The report shall include at least all
26 of the following information:

- 27 (1) A list of grant recipients.
- 28 (2) The total amount of grant funds awarded to each recipient.
- 29

30 PART IX-C. CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING [RESERVED]

31 PART IX-D. CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

32 NC PRE-K PROGRAMS/STANDARDS FOR FOUR- AND FIVE-STAR RATED

33 FACILITIES

34 **SECTION 9D.1.(a)** Eligibility. – The Department of Health and Human Services,
35 Division of Child Development and Early Education, shall continue implementing the
36 prekindergarten program (NC Pre-K). The NC Pre-K program shall serve children who are 4
37 years of age on or before August 31 of the program year. In determining eligibility, the Division
38 shall establish income eligibility requirements for the program not to exceed seventy-five percent
39 (75%) of the State median income. Up to twenty percent (20%) of children enrolled may have
40 family incomes in excess of seventy-five percent (75%) of median income if those children have
41 other designated risk factors. Furthermore, any age-eligible child who is a child of either of the
42 following shall be eligible for the program: (i) an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the
43 United States, including the North Carolina National Guard, State military forces, or a reserve
44 component of the Armed Forces who was ordered to active duty by the proper authority within
45 the last 18 months or is expected to be ordered within the next 18 months, or (ii) a member of the
46 Armed Forces of the United States, including the North Carolina National Guard, State military
47 forces, or a reserve component of the Armed Forces who was injured or killed while serving on
48 active duty. Eligibility determinations for NC Pre-K participants may continue through local
49 education agencies and local North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., partnerships.
50
51

1 Other than developmental disabilities or other chronic health issues, the Division shall
 2 not consider the health of a child as a factor in determining eligibility for participation in the NC
 3 Pre-K program.

4 **SECTION 9D.1.(b)** Multiyear Contracts. – The Division of Child Development and
 5 Early Education shall require the NC Pre-K contractor to issue multiyear contracts for licensed
 6 private child care centers providing NC Pre-K classrooms.

7 **SECTION 9D.1.(c)** Building Standards. – Notwithstanding G.S. 110-91(4), private
 8 child care facilities and public schools operating NC Pre-K classrooms shall meet the building
 9 standards for preschool students as provided in G.S. 115C-521.1.

10 **SECTION 9D.1.(d)** Programmatic Standards. – Except as provided in subsection (c)
 11 of this section, entities operating NC Pre-K classrooms shall adhere to all of the policies
 12 prescribed by the Division of Child Development and Early Education regarding programmatic
 13 standards and classroom requirements.

14 **SECTION 9D.1.(e)** NC Pre-K Committees. – Local NC Pre-K committees shall use
 15 the standard decision-making process developed by the Division of Child Development and Early
 16 Education in awarding NC Pre-K classroom slots and student selection.

17 **SECTION 9D.1.(f)** Reporting. – The Division of Child Development and Early
 18 Education shall submit an annual report no later than March 15 of each year to the Joint
 19 Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and
 20 Management, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the following:

- 21 (1) The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program by county.
- 22 (2) The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program who have
 23 never been served in other early education programs such as child care, public
 24 or private preschool, Head Start, Early Head Start, or early intervention
 25 programs.
- 26 (3) The expected NC Pre-K expenditures for the programs and the source of the
 27 local contributions.
- 28 (4) The results of an annual evaluation of the NC Pre-K program.

29 **SECTION 9D.1.(g)** Audits. – The administration of the NC Pre-K program by local
 30 partnerships shall be subject to the financial and compliance audits authorized under
 31 G.S. 143B-168.14(b).

32
 33 **CHILD CARE SUBSIDY RATES**

34 **SECTION 9D.3.(a)** The maximum gross annual income for initial eligibility,
 35 adjusted annually, for subsidized child care services shall be determined based on a percentage
 36 of the federal poverty level as follows:

37 AGE	38 INCOME PERCENTAGE LEVEL
39 0 – 5	200%
40 6 – 12	133%

41 The eligibility for any child with special needs, including a child who is 13 years of
 42 age or older, shall be two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty level.

43 **SECTION 9D.3.(b)** Fees for families who are required to share in the cost of care
 44 are established based on ten percent (10%) of gross family income. When care is received at the
 45 blended rate, the copayment shall be eighty-three percent (83%) of the full-time copayment.
 46 Copayments for part-time care shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the full-time copayment.

47 **SECTION 9D.3.(c)** Payments for the purchase of child care services for low-income
 48 children shall be in accordance with the following requirements:

- 49 (1) Religious sponsored child care facilities operating pursuant to G.S. 110-106
 50 and licensed child care centers and homes that meet the minimum licensing
 standards that are participating in the subsidized child care program shall be

- 1 paid the one-star county market rate or the rate they charge privately paying
2 parents, whichever is lower, unless prohibited by subsection (f) of this section.
- 3 (2) Licensed child care centers and homes with two or more stars shall receive the
4 market rate for that rated license level for that age group or the rate they charge
5 privately paying parents, whichever is lower, unless prohibited by subsection
6 (g) of this section.
- 7 (3) No payments shall be made for transportation services charged by child care
8 facilities.
- 9 (4) Payments for subsidized child care services for postsecondary education shall
10 be limited to a maximum of 20 months of enrollment. This shall not be
11 determined before a family's annual recertification period.
- 12 (5) The Department of Health and Human Services shall implement necessary
13 rule changes to restructure services, including, but not limited to, targeting
14 benefits to employment.

15 **SECTION 9D.3.(d)** Provisions of payment rates for child care providers in counties
16 that do not have at least 50 children in each age group for center-based and home-based care are
17 as follows:

- 18 (1) Except as applicable in subdivision (2) of this subsection, payment rates shall
19 be set at the statewide or regional market rate for licensed child care centers
20 and homes.
- 21 (2) If it can be demonstrated that the application of the statewide or regional
22 market rate to a county with fewer than 50 children in each age group is lower
23 than the county market rate and would inhibit the ability of the county to
24 purchase child care for low-income children, then the county market rate may
25 be applied.

26 **SECTION 9D.3.(e)** A market rate shall be calculated for child care centers and
27 homes at each rated license level for each county and for each age group or age category of
28 enrollees and shall be representative of fees charged to parents for each age group of enrollees
29 within the county. The Division of Child Development and Early Education shall also calculate
30 a statewide rate and regional market rate for each rated license level for each age category.

31 **SECTION 9D.3.(f)** The Division of Child Development and Early Education shall
32 continue implementing policies that improve the quality of child care for subsidized children,
33 including a policy in which child care subsidies are paid, to the extent possible, for child care in
34 the higher quality centers and homes only. The Division shall define higher quality, and subsidy
35 funds shall not be paid for one- or two-star-rated facilities. For those counties with an inadequate
36 number of four- and five-star-rated facilities, the Division shall continue a transition period that
37 allows the facilities to continue to receive subsidy funds while the facilities work on the increased
38 star ratings. The Division may allow exemptions in counties where there is an inadequate number
39 of four- and five-star-rated facilities for non-star-rated programs, such as religious programs.

40 **SECTION 9D.3.(g)** Facilities licensed pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 110 of the
41 General Statutes and facilities operated pursuant to G.S. 110-106 may participate in the program
42 that provides for the purchase of care in child care facilities for minor children of needy families.
43 Except as authorized by subsection (f) of this section, no separate licensing requirements shall
44 be used to select facilities to participate. In addition, child care facilities shall be required to meet
45 any additional applicable requirements of federal law or regulations. Child care arrangements
46 exempt from State regulation pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 110 of the General Statutes shall
47 meet the requirements established by other State law and by the Social Services Commission.

48 County departments of social services or other local contracting agencies shall not
49 use a provider's failure to comply with requirements in addition to those specified in this
50 subsection as a condition for reducing the provider's subsidized child care rate.

1 **SECTION 9D.3.(h)** Payment for subsidized child care services provided with
2 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant funds shall comply with all regulations
3 and policies issued by the Division of Child Development and Early Education for the subsidized
4 child care program.

5 **SECTION 9D.3.(i)** Noncitizen families who reside in this State legally shall be
6 eligible for child care subsidies if all other conditions of eligibility are met. If all other conditions
7 of eligibility are met, noncitizen families who reside in this State illegally shall be eligible for
8 child care subsidies only if at least one of the following conditions is met:

- 9 (1) The child for whom a child care subsidy is sought is receiving child protective
10 services or foster care services.
- 11 (2) The child for whom a child care subsidy is sought is developmentally delayed
12 or at risk of being developmentally delayed.
- 13 (3) The child for whom a child care subsidy is sought is a citizen of the United
14 States.

15 **SECTION 9D.3.(j)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
16 Child Development and Early Education, shall require all county departments of social services
17 to include on any forms used to determine eligibility for child care subsidy whether the family
18 waiting for subsidy is receiving assistance through the NC Pre-K Program or Head Start.

19 **SECTION 9D.3.(k)** Department of Defense-certified child care facilities licensed
20 pursuant to G.S. 110-106.2 may participate in the State-subsidized child care program that
21 provides for the purchase of care in child care facilities for minor children in needy families,
22 provided that funds allocated from the State-subsidized child care program to Department of
23 Defense-certified child care facilities shall supplement and not supplant funds allocated in
24 accordance with G.S. 143B-168.15(g). Payment rates and fees for military families who choose
25 Department of Defense-certified child care facilities and who are eligible to receive subsidized
26 child care shall be as set forth in this section.

27 **CHILD CARE ALLOCATION FORMULA**

28 **SECTION 9D.4.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
29 Child Development and Early Education (Division), shall allocate child care subsidy voucher
30 funds to pay the costs of necessary child care for minor children of needy families. The
31 mandatory thirty percent (30%) North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., subsidy allocation
32 under G.S. 143B-168.15(g) shall constitute the base amount for each county's child care subsidy
33 allocation. The Department of Health and Human Services shall use the following method when
34 allocating federal and State child care funds, not including the aggregate mandatory thirty percent
35 (30%) North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., subsidy allocation:
36

- 37 (1) Funds shall be allocated to a county based upon the projected cost of serving
38 children under age 11 in families with all parents working who earn less than
39 the applicable federal poverty level percentage set forth in Section 9D.3(a) of
40 this act.
- 41 (2) The Division may withhold up to two percent (2%) of available funds from
42 the allocation formula for (i) preventing termination of services throughout
43 the fiscal year and (ii) repayment of any federal funds identified by counties
44 as overpayments, including overpayments due to fraud. The Division shall
45 allocate to counties any funds withheld before the end of the fiscal year when
46 the Division determines the funds are not needed for the purposes described
47 in this subdivision. The Division shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative
48 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research
49 Division, which report shall include each of the following:
 - 50 a. The amount of funds used for preventing termination of services and
51 the repayment of any federal funds.

- 1 b. The date the remaining funds were distributed to counties.
2 c. As a result of funds withheld under this subdivision and after funds
3 have been distributed, any counties that did not receive at least the
4 amount the counties received the previous year and the amount by
5 which funds were decreased.

6 The Division shall submit a report in each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal
7 biennium 30 days after the funds withheld pursuant to this subdivision are
8 distributed but no later than April 1 of each respective year.

- 9 (3) The Division shall set aside four percent (4%) of child care subsidy allocations
10 for vulnerable populations, which include a child identified as having special
11 needs and a child whose application for assistance indicates that the child and
12 the child's family is experiencing homelessness or is in a temporary living
13 situation. A child identified by this subdivision shall be given priority for
14 receiving services until such time as set-aside allocations for vulnerable
15 populations are exhausted.

16 **SECTION 9D.4.(b)** The Division may reallocate unused child care subsidy voucher
17 funds in order to meet the child care needs of low-income families. Any reallocation of funds
18 shall be based upon the expenditures of all child care subsidy voucher funding, including North
19 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., funds within a county. Counties shall manage service
20 levels within the funds allocated to the counties. A county with a spending coefficient over one
21 hundred percent (100%) shall submit a plan to the Division for managing the county's allocation
22 before receiving any reallocated funds.

23 **SECTION 9D.4.(c)** When implementing the formula under subsection (a) of this
24 section, the Division shall include the market rate increase in the formula process rather than
25 calculate the increases outside of the formula process. Additionally, the Department shall do the
26 following:

- 27 (1) Deem a county's initial allocation as the county's expenditure in the previous
28 fiscal year or a prorated share of the county's previous fiscal year expenditures
29 if sufficient funds are not available.
30 (2) Effective immediately following the next new decennial census data release,
31 implement (i) one-third of the change in a county's allocation in the year
32 following the data release, (ii) an additional one-third of the change in a
33 county's allocation beginning two years after the initial change under this
34 subdivision, and (iii) the final one-third change in a county's allocation
35 beginning the following two years thereafter.

36 37 **SMART START INITIATIVES**

38 **SECTION 9D.5.(a)** Policies. – The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.,
39 and its Board shall ensure policies focus on the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.'s
40 mission of improving child care quality in North Carolina for children from birth to 5 years of
41 age. North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., funded activities shall include assisting child
42 care facilities with (i) improving quality, including helping one-, two-, and three-star-rated
43 facilities increase their star ratings, and (ii) implementing prekindergarten programs. State
44 funding for local partnerships shall also be used for evidence-based or evidence-informed
45 programs for children from birth to 5 years of age that do the following:

- 46 (1) Increase children's literacy.
47 (2) Increase the parents' ability to raise healthy, successful children.
48 (3) Improve children's health.
49 (4) Assist four- and five-star-rated facilities in improving and maintaining quality.

50 **SECTION 9D.5.(b)** Administration. – Administrative costs shall be equivalent to,
51 on an average statewide basis for all local partnerships, not more than ten percent (10%) of the

1 total statewide allocation to all local partnerships. For purposes of this subsection, administrative
2 costs shall include costs associated with partnership oversight, business and financial
3 management, general accounting, human resources, budgeting, purchasing, contracting, and
4 information systems management. The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall
5 continue using a single statewide contract management system that incorporates features of the
6 required standard fiscal accountability plan described in G.S. 143B-168.12(a)(4). All local
7 partnerships are required to participate in the contract management system and, directed by the
8 North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., to collaborate, to the fullest extent possible, with
9 other local partnerships to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

10 **SECTION 9D.5.(c) Salaries.** – The salary schedule developed and implemented by
11 the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall set the maximum amount of State funds
12 that may be used for the salary of the Executive Director of the North Carolina Partnership for
13 Children, Inc., and the directors of the local partnerships. The North Carolina Partnership for
14 Children, Inc., shall base the schedule on the following criteria:

- 15 (1) The population of the area serviced by a local partnership.
- 16 (2) The amount of State funds administered.
- 17 (3) The amount of total funds administered.
- 18 (4) The professional experience of the individual to be compensated.
- 19 (5) Any other relevant factors pertaining to salary, as determined by the North
20 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

21 The salary schedule shall be used only to determine the maximum amount of State
22 funds that may be used for compensation. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit
23 a local partnership from using non-State funds to supplement an individual's salary in excess of
24 the amount set by the salary schedule established under this subsection.

25 **SECTION 9D.5.(d) Match Requirements.** – The North Carolina Partnership for
26 Children, Inc., and all local partnerships shall, in the aggregate, be required to match one hundred
27 percent (100%) of the total amount budgeted for the program in each fiscal year of the 2023-2025
28 biennium. Of the funds that the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and the local
29 partnerships are required to match, contributions of cash shall be equal to at least thirteen percent
30 (13%) and in-kind donated resources shall be equal to no more than six percent (6%) for a total
31 match requirement of nineteen percent (19%) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.
32 The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., may carry forward any amount in excess of
33 the required match for a fiscal year in order to meet the match requirement of the succeeding
34 fiscal year. Only in-kind contributions that are quantifiable shall be applied to the in-kind match
35 requirement. Volunteer services may be treated as an in-kind contribution for the purpose of the
36 match requirement of this subsection. Volunteer services that qualify as professional services
37 shall be valued at the fair market value of those services. All other volunteer service hours shall
38 be valued at the statewide average wage rate as calculated from data compiled by the Division of
39 Employment Security of the Department of Commerce in the Employment and Wages in North
40 Carolina Annual Report for the most recent period for which data are available. Expenses,
41 including both those paid by cash and in-kind contributions, incurred by other participating
42 non-State entities contracting with the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., or the local
43 partnerships also may be considered resources available to meet the required private match. In
44 order to qualify to meet the required private match, the expenses shall:

- 45 (1) Be verifiable from the contractor's records.
- 46 (2) If in-kind, other than volunteer services, be quantifiable in accordance with
47 generally accepted accounting principles for nonprofit organizations.
- 48 (3) Not include expenses funded by State funds.
- 49 (4) Be supplemental to and not supplant preexisting resources for related program
50 activities.

- 1 (5) Be incurred as a direct result of the Early Childhood Initiatives Program and
2 be necessary and reasonable for the proper and efficient accomplishment of
3 the Program's objectives.
- 4 (6) Be otherwise allowable under federal or State law.
- 5 (7) Be required and described in the contractual agreements approved by the
6 North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., or the local partnership.
- 7 (8) Be reported to the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., or the local
8 partnership by the contractor in the same manner as reimbursable expenses.

9 Failure to obtain a nineteen-percent (19%) match by June 30 of each year of the
10 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall result in a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the appropriation for the
11 Program for a subsequent fiscal year. The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall be
12 responsible for compiling information on the private cash and in-kind contributions into a report,
13 to be included in its annual report as required under G.S. 143B-168.12(d), in a format that allows
14 verification by the Department of Revenue. The same match requirements shall apply to any
15 expansion funds appropriated by the General Assembly.

16 **SECTION 9D.5.(e)** Bidding. – The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.,
17 and all local partnerships shall use competitive bidding practices in contracting for goods and
18 services on contract amounts as follows:

- 19 (1) For amounts of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or less, the procedures specified
20 by a written policy as developed by the Board of Directors of the North
21 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.
- 22 (2) For amounts greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) but less than fifteen
23 thousand dollars (\$15,000), three written quotes.
- 24 (3) For amounts of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) or more but less than forty
25 thousand dollars (\$40,000), a request for proposal process.
- 26 (4) For amounts of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) or more, a request for
27 proposal process and advertising in a major newspaper.

28 **SECTION 9D.5.(f)** Allocations. – The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.,
29 shall not reduce the allocation for counties with less than 35,000 in population below the
30 2012-2013 funding level.

31 **SECTION 9D.5.(g)** Performance-Based Evaluation. – The Department of Health
32 and Human Services shall continue to implement the performance-based evaluation system.

33 **SECTION 9D.5.(h)** Expenditure Restrictions. – Except as provided in subsection (i)
34 of this section, the Department of Health and Human Services and the North Carolina Partnership
35 for Children, Inc., shall ensure that the allocation of funds for Early Childhood Education and
36 Development Initiatives for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be administered and distributed
37 in the following manner:

- 38 (1) Capital expenditures are prohibited for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. For the
39 purposes of this section, "capital expenditures" means expenditures for capital
40 improvements as defined in G.S. 143C-1-1(d)(5).
- 41 (2) Expenditures of State funds for advertising and promotional activities are
42 prohibited for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

43 For the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, local partnerships shall not spend any State funds
44 on marketing campaigns, advertising, or any associated materials. Local partnerships may spend
45 any private funds the local partnerships receive on those activities.

46 **SECTION 9D.5.(i)** Notwithstanding subsection (h) of this section, the North
47 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and local partnerships may use up to one percent (1%) of
48 State funds for fundraising activities. The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall
49 include in its annual report required under G.S. 143B-168.12(d) a report on the use of State funds
50 for fundraising. The report shall include the following:

- 51 (1) The amount of funds expended on fundraising.

- 1 (2) Any return on fundraising investments.
2 (3) Any other information deemed relevant.
3

4 **SMART START LITERACY INITIATIVE/DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION**
5 **LIBRARY**

6 **SECTION 9D.6.(a)** A portion of the funds allocated in this act to the North Carolina
7 Partnership for Children, Inc., from the Department of Health and Human Services, shall
8 continue to be used to increase access to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an early literacy
9 program that mails age-appropriate books on a monthly basis to children registered for the
10 program.

11 **SECTION 9D.6.(b)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., may use up
12 to one percent (1%) of the funds for statewide program management and up to one percent (1%)
13 of the funds for program evaluation. Funds allocated under this section shall not be subject to
14 administrative costs requirements under Section 9D.5(b) of this act, nor shall these funds be
15 subject to the child care services funding requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(b), child care
16 subsidy expansion requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(g), or the match requirements under
17 Section 9D.5(d) of this act.
18

19 **INCREASE CAPACITY/FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

20 **SECTION 9D.10.(a)** G.S. 110-86(3) reads as rewritten:

21 "(3) Child care facility. – Includes child care centers, family child care homes, and
22 any other child care arrangement not excluded by G.S. 110-86(2), that
23 provides child care, regardless of the time of day, wherever operated, and
24 whether or not operated for profit.

25 a. A child care center is an arrangement where, at any one time, there are
26 three or more preschool-age children or nine or more school-age
27 children receiving child care.

28 b. A family child care home is a child care arrangement located in a
29 residence where, at any one time, more than two children, but less than
30 ~~nine~~ 10 children, receive child ~~care~~ care, provided the arrangement is
31 in accordance with G.S. 110-91(7)b."

32 **SECTION 9D.10.(b)** G.S. 110-91(7)b. reads as rewritten:

33 "b. Family Child Care Home Capacity. – ~~Of the children present at any~~
34 ~~one time in a family child care home, no more than five children shall~~
35 ~~be preschool aged, including the operator's own preschool age~~
36 ~~children.~~ A family child care home is allowed to provide care for one
37 of the following groups of children, including the operator's own
38 preschool-age children and excluding the operator's own school-age
39 children up to 13 years of age:

40 1. A maximum of eight children, with no more than five children
41 who are from birth to 5 years of age, plus three school-age
42 children.

43 2. A maximum of three children from birth to 24 months of age,
44 plus three children from 2 to 5 years of age and three
45 school-age children up to 13 years of age, for a total of nine
46 children.

47 3. A maximum of 10 children if all children are older than 24
48 months of age."
49

50 **EXTEND COMPENSATION GRANTS FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS**

1 **SECTION 9D.11.** Section 9L.2(b)(1)a. of S.L. 2021-180, as amended by Section
2 9L.2(a) of S.L. 2022-74, reads as rewritten:

3 "a. A minimum of two hundred six million dollars (\$206,000,000) but no
4 more than two hundred fifteen million dollars (\$215,000,000) to (i)
5 reduce the waitlist for children eligible for subsidized child care who
6 are in foster care and (ii) after addressing the waitlist under item (i) of
7 this sub-subdivision, work toward reducing the waitlist for children
8 eligible for subsidized child care. Additionally, the Division shall use
9 a portion of these funds to ~~temporarily increase the child care subsidy~~
10 ~~reimbursement rates to those recommended in the 2018 Child Care~~
11 ~~Market Rate Study until the funds expire on September 30,~~
12 2024.extend the compensation grants portion of the child care
13 stabilization grants, as authorized under Section 3.2(a) of S.L.
14 2021-25, until these funds are exhausted."
15

16 **PART IX-E. HEALTH BENEFITS**

17 **CONTINUE MEDICAID ANNUAL REPORT**

18 **SECTION 9E.1.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health
19 Benefits (DHB), shall continue the publication of the Medicaid Annual Report and
20 accompanying tables. DHB shall publish the report and tables on its website no later than
21 December 31 following each State fiscal year.
22

23 **VOLUME PURCHASE PLANS AND SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

24 **SECTION 9E.2.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health
25 Benefits, may, subject to the approval of a change in the State Medicaid Plan, contract for
26 services, medical equipment, supplies, and appliances by implementation of volume purchase
27 plans, single source procurement, or other contracting processes in order to improve cost
28 containment.
29

30 **DURATION OF MEDICAID PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS**

31 **SECTION 9E.3.** Except for statutory changes or where otherwise specified, the
32 Department of Health and Human Services shall not be required to maintain, after June 30, 2025,
33 any modifications to the Medicaid program required by this Subpart.
34

35 **ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FUNDING**

36 **SECTION 9E.4.** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health
37 and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, for administrative contracts and interagency
38 transfers, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall transfer the sum of one
39 million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of one million dollars
40 (\$1,000,000) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH).
41 These funds shall be allocated by OAH for mediation services provided for Medicaid applicant
42 and recipient appeals and to contract for other services necessary to conduct the appeals process.
43 OAH shall continue the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DHHS for mediation services
44 provided for Medicaid recipient appeals and contracted services necessary to conduct the appeals
45 process. Upon receipt of invoices from OAH for covered services rendered in accordance with
46 the MOA, DHHS shall transfer the federal share of Medicaid funds drawn down for this purpose.
47
48

49 **ACCOUNTING FOR MEDICAID RECEIVABLES AS NONTAX REVENUE**

50 **SECTION 9E.5.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
51 Health Benefits (DHB), receivables reserved at the end of the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal

1 years shall, when received, be accounted for as nontax revenue for each of those fiscal years. The
 2 treatment under this section of any revenue derived from federal programs shall be in accordance
 3 with the requirements specified in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 225.

4 **SECTION 9E.5.(b)** For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Department of Health and
 5 Human Services shall deposit from its revenues one hundred sixty-four million five hundred
 6 thousand dollars (\$164,500,000) with the Department of State Treasurer to be accounted for as
 7 nontax revenue. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Human Services
 8 shall deposit from its revenues eighty-eight million four hundred thousand dollars (\$88,400,000)
 9 with the Department of State Treasurer to be accounted for as nontax revenue. These deposits
 10 shall represent the return of advanced General Fund appropriations, nonfederal revenue, fund
 11 balances, or other resources from State-owned and State-operated hospitals that are used to
 12 provide indigent and nonindigent care services. The return from State-owned and State-operated
 13 hospitals to the Department of Health and Human Services shall be made from nonfederal
 14 resources in the following manner:

- 15 (1) The University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill shall make the
 16 following deposits:
 - 17 a. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the amount of thirty-one million three
 18 hundred sixty-five thousand three hundred five dollars (\$31,365,305).
 - 19 b. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the amount of thirty-one million three
 20 hundred sixty-five thousand three hundred five dollars (\$31,365,305).
- 21 (2) All State-owned and State-operated hospitals, other than the University of
 22 North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill, that specialize in psychiatric care
 23 shall annually deposit an amount equal to the amount of the payments from
 24 DHB for uncompensated care.

25
 26 **LME/MCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFERS**

27 **SECTION 9E.6.(a)** The local management entities/managed care organizations
 28 (LME/MCOs) shall make intergovernmental transfers to the Department of Health and Human
 29 Services, Division of Health Benefits (DHB), in an aggregate amount of eighteen million
 30 twenty-eight thousand two hundred seventeen dollars (\$18,028,217) in the 2023-2024 fiscal year
 31 and in an aggregate amount of eighteen million twenty-eight thousand two hundred seventeen
 32 dollars (\$18,028,217) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The due date and frequency of the
 33 intergovernmental transfer required by this section shall be determined by DHB. The amount of
 34 the intergovernmental transfer that each individual LME/MCO is required to make in each fiscal
 35 year shall be as follows:

	2023-2024	2024-2025
36 Alliance Behavioral Healthcare	\$4,907,800	\$4,907,800
37 Eastpointe	\$1,631,348	\$1,631,348
38 Partners Health Management	\$3,362,071	\$3,362,071
39 Sandhills Center	\$2,673,494	\$2,673,494
40 Trillium Health Resources	\$2,594,140	\$2,594,140
41 Vaya Health	\$2,859,364	\$2,859,364

42
 43 **SECTION 9E.6.(b)** In the event that a county disengages from an LME/MCO and
 44 realigns with another LME/MCO during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, DHB shall have the
 45 authority to reallocate the amount of the intergovernmental transfer that each affected
 46 LME/MCO is required to make under subsection (a) of this section, taking into consideration the
 47 change in catchment area and covered population, provided that the aggregate amount of the
 48 transfers received from all LME/MCOs in each year of the fiscal biennium is achieved.

49
 50 **DSH RECEIPTS FOR USE BY THE MEDICAID PROGRAM**

1 **SECTION 9E.7.(a)** Of the federal disproportionate share adjustment receipts arising
2 from certified public expenditures for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the 2024-2025 fiscal year,
3 forty-three million dollars (\$43,000,000) in each fiscal year shall not be deposited into the
4 Hospital Uncompensated Care Fund under G.S. 143C-9-9 but rather shall be available to the
5 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, to be used for the
6 Medicaid program.

7 **SECTION 9E.7.(b)** This section shall expire on the date on which
8 G.S. 108A-54.3A(24), as enacted under Section 1(b) of S.L. 2023-7, is effective.

9
10 **ALLOW FOR EARLIER FUNDING FOR START-UP COSTS RELATED TO NC**
11 **HEALTH WORKS**

12 **SECTION 9E.7A.(a)** If this act becomes law before July 1, 2023, then Section 1.5(a)
13 of S.L. 2023-7 reads as rewritten:

14 **"SECTION 1.5.(a)** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the same definition
15 as in G.S. 108A-145.3: acute care hospital, critical access hospital, and hospital costs. For the
16 State fiscal quarter beginning ~~October~~ July 1, 2023, each acute care hospital, except for critical
17 access hospitals, is subject to an assessment of a percentage of its hospital costs. This hospital
18 assessment shall be imposed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in
19 accordance with the procedures for hospital assessments under Part 1 of Article 7B of Chapter
20 108A of the General Statutes. DHHS shall calculate the hospital assessment percentage by
21 dividing twelve million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$12,800,000) by the total hospital costs
22 for all acute care hospitals except for critical access hospitals. From the proceeds of this
23 assessment, DHHS shall use the sum of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to provide funding to
24 county departments of social services to support the counties with implementation of Section 1.1
25 of this act."

26 **SECTION 9E.7A.(b)** If this act becomes law before July 1, 2023, then Section 1.5(c)
27 of S.L. 2023-7 reads as rewritten:

28 **"SECTION 1.5.(c)** Subsection (a) of this section expires ~~December 31,~~ September 30,
29 2023."

30 **SECTION 9E.7A.(c)** This section is effective when this act becomes law.

31
32 **MEDICAID REBASE TRACKING, TRANSPARENCY, AND PREDICTABILITY**

33 **SECTION 9E.8.(a)** Due to the uncertainty of the timing and rate of disenrollments
34 for individuals who will lose their Medicaid coverage as a result of the unwinding of the public
35 health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, among other factors, the General
36 Assembly intends to closely monitor the expenditures for the Medicaid program throughout the
37 2023-2025 fiscal biennium using the reports required by this section. In the event that the
38 Medicaid program experiences, during either year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, a shortfall
39 of funding needed to maintain the existing scope of the Medicaid program, as modified by this
40 act and any other act of the 2023 General Assembly, it is the intent of the General Assembly to
41 appropriate funds from the Medicaid Contingency Reserve to the Division of Health Benefits, in
42 accordance with the conditions described in G.S. 143C-4-11.

43 **SECTION 9E.8.(b)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
44 Health Benefits (DHB), shall, on the schedule outlined in subsection (c) of this section, report to
45 the Office of State Budget Management, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid,
46 and the Fiscal Research Division on the following information:

- 47 (1) For the initial report, Medicaid enrollment projections for the 2023-2025 fiscal
48 biennium. For each subsequent report, the actual enrollment relative to those
49 projections.
50 (2) The year-to-date General Fund expenditures for Medicaid through the month
51 prior to the month in which the report is due.

- 1 (3) Projections on Medicaid General Fund expenditures needed for the remaining
2 months in the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.
- 3 (4) Any Medicaid-related budget challenges identified by DHB for the 2023-2025
4 fiscal biennium and the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, and the estimated cost
5 related to those challenges. Challenges that have been identified in a
6 previously submitted report for which there are no updates need not be
7 identified in subsequent reports.
- 8 (5) Changes to the Medicaid program that are planned to be implemented at any
9 time in the future under the authority granted under G.S. 108A-54(e)(1), the
10 predicted impact of those changes to the Medicaid budget for the 2023-2025
11 fiscal biennium and the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, and the anticipated
12 implementation time line for those changes. Planned changes that have been
13 identified in a previously submitted report for which there are no updates need
14 not be identified in subsequent reports.
- 15 (6) Changes to the Medicaid program required under federal or State law that will
16 be implemented, the predicted impact of those changes to the Medicaid budget
17 for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium and the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, and the
18 anticipated implementation time line for those changes. Changes that have
19 been identified in a previously submitted report for which there are no updates
20 need not be identified in subsequent reports.
- 21 (7) Any unanticipated costs to the Medicaid program that were not accounted for
22 in either the model used to create Governor Cooper's Recommended Budget
23 for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, or the projection contained in any prior
24 report submitted under this section. Any unanticipated costs that have been
25 identified in a previously submitted report for which there are no updates need
26 not be identified in subsequent reports.
- 27 (8) The amount, if any, of funds DHB is requesting to be transferred out of the
28 Medicaid Contingency Reserve, as established under G.S. 143C-4-11, and as
29 much information as possible that meets the requirements under
30 G.S. 143C-4-11(b)(3).

31 **SECTION 9E.8.(c)** The reports required under subsection (b) of this section shall be
32 due on the following schedule:

- 33 (1) October 15, 2023.
34 (2) January 15, 2024.
35 (3) March 15, 2024.
36 (4) October 15, 2024.
37 (5) January 15, 2025.
38 (6) March 15, 2025.

39
40 **USE OF THE MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION FUND FOR MEDICAID**
41 **TRANSFORMATION NEEDS**

42 **SECTION 9E.9.(a)** Claims Run Out. – Funds from the Medicaid Transformation
43 Fund may be transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health
44 Benefits (DHB), for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, as needed, for the purpose of paying claims
45 related to services billed under the fee-for-service payment model for recipients who are being,
46 or have been, transitioned to managed care, otherwise known as "claims run out." Funds may be
47 transferred to DHB as the need to pay claims run out arises and need not be transferred in one
48 lump sum. To the extent that any funds are transferred under this subsection, the funds are
49 appropriated for the purpose set forth in this subsection.

50 **SECTION 9E.9.(b)** Non-Claims Run Out Medicaid Transformation Needs. –
51 Subject to the fulfillment of conditions specified in subsection (c) of this section, the sum of one

1 hundred twenty million dollars (\$120,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal
2 year and the sum of one hundred twenty million dollars (\$120,000,000) in nonrecurring funds
3 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year from the Medicaid Transformation Fund may be transferred to DHB
4 for the sole purpose of providing the State share for qualifying needs directly related to Medicaid
5 transformation, as required by S.L. 2015-245, as amended. Funds may be transferred to DHB as
6 qualifying needs arise during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium and need not be transferred in one
7 lump sum. Any amount of funds from the one hundred twenty million dollars (\$120,000,000)
8 made available under this subsection for transfer to DHB in the 2023-2024 fiscal year that has
9 not been transferred to DHB for qualifying needs as of June 30, 2024, shall continue to be
10 available for transfer to DHB as qualifying needs arise during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

11 For the purposes of this section, the term "qualifying need" shall be limited to the
12 following Medicaid transformation needs and may include contracts and temporary staffing:

- 13 (1) Program design.
- 14 (2) Beneficiary and provider experience.
- 15 (3) Information technology upgrades, operations, and maintenance.
- 16 (4) Data management tools.
- 17 (5) Program integrity.
- 18 (6) Quality review.
- 19 (7) Actuarial rate setting functions.
- 20 (8) Technical and operational integration.
- 21 (9) BH IDD tailored plan health homes.
- 22 (10) Legal fees.
- 23 (11) Expenses related to the Enhanced Case Management and Other Services Pilot
24 Program, commonly referred to as the "Healthy Opportunities Pilots."

25 **SECTION 9E.9.(c)** Requests for Transfer of Funds for Qualifying Need. – A request
26 by DHB for the transfer of funds pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be made to OSBM
27 and shall include the amount requested and the specific qualifying need for which the funds are
28 to be used. None of the funds identified in subsection (b) of this section shall be transferred to
29 DHB until OSBM verifies the following information:

- 30 (1) The amount requested is to be used for a qualifying need in the 2023-2025
31 fiscal biennium.
- 32 (2) The amount requested provides a State share that will not result in total
33 requirements that exceed one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) in nonrecurring
34 funds for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

35 **SECTION 9E.9.(d)** Federal Fund Receipts. – Any federal funds received in any
36 fiscal year by DHB that represent a return of State share already expended on a qualifying need
37 related to the funds received by DHB under this section shall be deposited into the Medicaid
38 Transformation Fund.

39 **SECTION 9E.9.(e)** Reporting. – No later than January 15, 2024, and every six
40 months thereafter until the final report due July 15, 2025, DHB shall report to the Joint
41 Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and the Fiscal Research Division on each
42 expenditure that has been funded from the Medicaid Transformation fund in the preceding six
43 months and whether that expenditure is expected to continue into the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.
44

45 **EXPAND NORTH CAROLINA INNOVATIONS WAIVER SLOTS**

46 **SECTION 9E.10.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
47 Health Benefits, shall amend the North Carolina Innovations waiver to increase the number of
48 slots available under the waiver by 350 slots. These additional slots shall be made available on
49 July 1, 2023, or upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, whichever is
50 later.

1 **SECTION 9E.10.(b)** Effective when this act becomes law, Section 9F.14 of S.L.
2 2021-180 is repealed.

3
4 **INCREASE PRIVATE DUTY NURSING RATES**

5 **SECTION 9E.12A.** Beginning July 1, 2023, the Department of Health and Human
6 Services, Division of Health Benefits, shall increase to thirteen dollars (\$13.00) per 15 minutes
7 the rate paid for private duty nursing services pursuant to Medicaid Clinical Coverage Policies
8 3G-1: Private Duty Nursing for Beneficiaries Age 21 and Older and 3G-2: Private Duty Nursing
9 for Beneficiaries Under 21 Years of Age.

10
11 **INCREASE WAGES OF DIRECT CARE WORKERS/INNOVATIONS WAIVER**

12 **SECTION 9E.15.(a)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to assist in increasing
13 the hourly wages of direct care workers who provide services to Medicaid beneficiaries receiving
14 services through the North Carolina Innovations waiver program, to be termed "Innovations
15 direct care workers" for the purpose of this act, by an industry average rate of six dollars and fifty
16 cents (\$6.50) per hour above the North Carolina industry average hourly wage rate, cited in the
17 most recent report, if any, submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid
18 and NC Health Choice in accordance with Section 9D.15C of S.L. 2021-180.

19 To that end, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health
20 Benefits (DHB), shall provide a rate increase to providers who provide services to Medicaid
21 beneficiaries receiving services through the North Carolina Innovations waiver program who are
22 either (i) enrolled in the Medicaid program or (ii) approved financial managers or financial
23 support agencies billing for waiver service hours provided by direct care workers that are hired
24 by employers of record or managing employers under a self-directed option in accordance with
25 Medicaid Clinical Coverage Policy 8-P: North Carolina Innovations.

26 **SECTION 9E.15.(b)** Upon implementation of the rate increase required by this
27 section, DHB shall adjust the per member per month (PMPM) capitation amount paid to local
28 management entities/managed care organizations. All LME/MCOs shall be required to
29 implement the increase. This increase shall continue to apply when the BH IDD tailored plans
30 become fully operational and are implemented. DHB shall determine the amount of rate increase
31 under this section. The definition of an Innovations direct care worker under this section includes
32 all workers required for compliance with, or delivery of, the relevant Innovations waiver service
33 definitions and the delivery of a unit of Innovations services to individuals in the definition of
34 direct care worker to be applied and shall include only caregivers who are contracted for the
35 provision of services in a legally appropriate manner. The rate increase under this section shall
36 be effective on the effective date approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

37 **SECTION 9E.15.(c)** Prior to receiving the rate increase required under this section,
38 providers who employ Innovations direct care workers shall attest and provide verification to the
39 relevant LME/MCO that this increased funding is being used to the benefit of its Innovations
40 direct care workers, including in the form of an increase in hourly wage, benefits, or associated
41 payroll costs. DHB shall set the standards for documentation that shall be required for verification
42 that the provider used the rate increase in the manner required by this section, and LME/MCOs
43 shall use these same standards. DHB and LME/MCOs shall require verifiable methods of
44 accounting, such as payroll-based journals. Providers receiving a rate increase under this section
45 shall keep documentation of the use of that rate increase and make the documentation available
46 upon request by DHB or by the relevant LME/MCO.

47 **SECTION 9E.15.(d)** In addition to other allowable reasons for recoupment of funds,
48 DHB shall recoup part or all of the funds related to the rate increase received by a provider
49 pursuant to this section if DHB determines that the provider did not use the increased funding to
50 the benefit of its Innovations direct care worker employees.

ACCOUNT FOR DELAY OF BH IDD TAILORED PLANS

SECTION 9E.16.(a) Section 9D.7(a) of S.L. 2022-74 is repealed.

SECTION 9E.16.(b) The Division of Health Benefits, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), shall implement BH IDD tailored plans, as defined under G.S. 108D-1, no later than October 1, 2023. The initial term of the BH IDD tailored plan contract shall end September 30, 2024. The RFP for the operation of BH IDD tailored plans beginning October 1, 2024, shall be open to (i) PHPs, as defined in G.S. 58-93-5, and (ii) local management entities/managed care organizations under contract to operate a BH IDD tailored plan and that meet certain criteria established by DHHS.

SECTION 9E.16.(c) DHHS is directed to consult with staff from the Fiscal Research Division, the Legislative Drafting Division, and the Legislative Analysis Division regarding legislative changes to Chapter 122C, Chapter 108D, and any other chapter of the General Statutes to address the status of local management entities/managed care organizations, State-funded mental health services referred to as single-stream services, and BH IDD tailored plans upon the conclusion of the initial term of the BH IDD tailored plan contracts. DHHS shall submit a report containing specific legislative changes requested resulting from that consultation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice no later than March 1, 2024.

SECTION 9E.16.(d) This section is effective when it becomes law.

FURTHER ADJUST IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR REQUIRING LME/MCOS TO PAY FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED TO BENEFICIARIES AWAITING HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

SECTION 9E.19.(a) Section 9D.22(f) of S.L. 2021-180, as amended by Section 9D.9 of S.L. 2022-74, reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 9D.22.(f) CMS Approval. – The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, shall submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) any State Plan amendments necessary to establish the new Medicaid coverage required by this ~~section~~ section with a proposed start date of March 1, 2023. The new Medicaid covered services and rates shall be implemented ~~December 31, 2022~~. ~~If approval from CMS is not granted by December 31, 2022, then as soon as operationally feasible after the approval by CMS.~~ DHB shall retroactively implement services and rates ~~upon approval from CMS to December 31, 2022~~ to the date approved by CMS. The new Medicaid covered services and rates shall only be implemented to the extent allowable by CMS."

SECTION 9E.19.(b) This section is effective retroactively to December 31, 2022.

DRAFT SMI/SED WAIVER

SECTION 9E.19A.(a) The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, shall develop a proposed Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver focused on adults with serious mental illness (SMI), children with serious emotional disturbance (SED), or both. This proposed SMI/SED waiver shall include all of the following:

- (1) Receipt of federal financial participation for covered services furnished to Medicaid beneficiaries during stays greater than 15 days for acute care in psychiatric hospitals or residential treatment settings that qualify as institutions of mental disease (IMDs).
- (2) Detailed ways in which DHB shall ensure good quality of care in IMDs.
- (3) Methods to address improved access to community-based services for beneficiaries with SMI or SED.
- (4) Goals to be achieved through the waiver that include the following:

- a. Reduced utilization and lengths of stay in hospital emergency departments among Medicaid beneficiaries with SMI or SED while awaiting mental health treatment in specialized settings.
- b. Reduced preventable readmissions to acute care hospitals and residential settings by Medicaid beneficiaries with SMI or SED.
- c. Improved availability of crisis stabilization services.
- d. Improved access to community-based services to address the chronic mental health care needs of Medicaid beneficiaries with SMI or SED.
- e. Improved care coordination and continuity of care following episodes of acute care in hospitals and residential treatment facilities.

SECTION 9E.19A.(b) No later than September 1, 2024, DHB shall submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice a report that provides details on the proposed 1115 waiver developed under subsection (a) of this section, a copy of the draft waiver, and estimated costs or savings to the State were the waiver to be implemented.

NORTH CAROLINA – PSYCHIATRY ACCESS LINE

SECTION 9E.19B. Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, the sum of one million eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,850,000) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of one million nine hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,950,000) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be used for the North Carolina – Psychiatry Access Line (NC-PAL), a partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Duke University. No later than September 1, 2024, and September 1, 2025, NC-PAL shall submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division the following information:

- (1) The number of consultations provided over the previous fiscal year, broken down by consultations provided by NC-PAL Child Psychiatry and NC-PAL Perinatal Psychiatry.
- (2) The geographic regions of the State utilizing the services offered by NC-PAL, by county.
- (3) The percentage of NC-PAL consultations that resulted in treatment of an individual by that individual's primary care provider, rather than referral to a specialist.
- (4) The estimated number of avoided emergency department visits resulting from the services provided through NC-PAL.
- (5) The results of any new pilot program offering consultations with county department of social services offices or residential providers and whether those consultations reduced placement disruptions for children in the custody of county departments of social services or the need for crisis intervention.

ADDITIONAL MEDICAID SERVICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

SECTION 9E.21.(a) The General Assembly finds that youth receiving foster care services through the county child welfare agencies are entitled to trauma-informed interventions and therapy that are also evidence-based, evidence-informed, or both. The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits (DHB), shall convene a workgroup composed of county child welfare agencies, representatives with lived experience in child welfare, the nonprofit corporation Benchmarks, prepaid health plans, and local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) to identify innovative Medicaid service options to address any gaps in the care of children receiving foster care services. As participants in the workgroup, LME/MCOs shall be responsible for communicating with healthcare providers in their catchment area the opportunity to submit concept papers to this workgroup on either of the following items:

- 1 (1) Identification of models of community evidence-based practices that support
- 2 a foster child returning to the child's family in a timely manner and diverting
- 3 higher level foster care placements.
- 4 (2) Identification of model short-term residential treatment options that serve
- 5 children with high acuity needs that divert a child from higher level
- 6 placements such as psychiatric residential treatment facility placement. The
- 7 provision of stepdown options from higher levels of care may be considered.

8 **SECTION 9E.21.(b)** No later than three months after the workgroup has completed
 9 its work under subsection (a) of this section, DHB shall begin distributing funding, as
 10 appropriated in this act and to the extent allowed under G.S. 108A-54.1A, to LME/MCOs for the
 11 purposes of the expansion of a Medicaid service or modality that is not available in a particular
 12 county or region. DHB may prioritize the distribution of funds under this section based upon the
 13 areas with the greatest need, as identified by the workgroup convened under subsection (a) of
 14 this section. DHB shall require all of the following from any LME/MCO receiving funding under
 15 this subsection:

- 16 (1) Time lines for, and establishment of, first- and second-year deliverables for
- 17 any service that may be a phased-in service.
- 18 (2) Identification of required funding, including start-up funding and a three-year
- 19 budget, including projected revenue sources and amounts.
- 20 (3) Specific outcome measures with the attestation of the timely submission of
- 21 the data to the applicable prepaid health plan and DHB. These outcomes shall
- 22 be aligned with child welfare safety and permanency measures and shall
- 23 support positive childhood outcomes.

24 **SECTION 9E.21.(c)** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall
 25 provide training to all county departments of social services and shall offer training to tribal
 26 welfare offices on any Medicaid services funded under subsection (b) of this section and may
 27 delegate that training to the relevant LME/MCO. Further, DHHS shall continue to provide to the
 28 relevant county departments of social services and tribal welfare offices status updates on
 29 implementation within any impacted counties and regions.

30 **SECTION 9E.21.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

31
 32 **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SPECIALTY PLAN**

33 **SECTION 9E.22.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall
 34 issue an initial request for proposals (RFP) to procure a single statewide children and families
 35 (CAF) specialty plan contract with services to begin no later than December 1, 2024. The RFP
 36 shall be subject to the requirements in G.S. 108D-62, as enacted by subsection (k) of this section.
 37 DHHS shall define the services available under the CAF specialty plan and the Medicaid and NC
 38 Health Choice beneficiaries who are eligible to enroll in the CAF specialty plan, except as
 39 otherwise specified in this act or in law. For the purposes of this section, the CAF specialty plan
 40 shall be as defined under G.S. 108D-1, as amended by subsection (c) of this section.

41 **SECTION 9E.22.(b)** DHHS shall request approval from the Centers for Medicare
 42 and Medicaid Services (CMS) to require that a child who is automatically enrolled in the children
 43 and families specialty plan under G.S. 108D-62(f) may not elect to enroll instead in a standard
 44 benefit plan or a behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities tailored plan unless
 45 doing so is in the best interest of the child, as determined by the county department of social
 46 services after consultation with the entity operating a CAF specialty plan.

47 **SECTION 9E.22.(c)** G.S. 108D-1 reads as rewritten:

48 **"§ 108D-1. Definitions.**

49 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

50 ...

(4) Behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities tailored plan or BH IDD tailored plan. – A capitated prepaid health plan contract under the Medicaid transformation demonstration waiver that meets all of the requirements of Article 4 of this Chapter, including the requirements pertaining to BH IDD tailored ~~plans~~.plans, but excluding the requirements pertaining only to the CAF specialty plan.

...
 (5a) Children and families specialty plan or CAF specialty plan. – A statewide capitated prepaid health plan contract under the Medicaid transformation demonstration waiver that meets all of the requirements of Article 4 of this Chapter, including the requirements pertaining to the CAF specialty plan, but excluding the requirements only pertaining to BH IDD tailored plans.

...
 (30) Prepaid health plan or PHP. – A prepaid health plan, as defined in G.S. 58-93-5, that is under a capitated contract with the Department for the delivery of Medicaid and NC Health Choice services, or a local management entity/managed care organization that is under a capitated PHP contract with the ~~Department to operate a BH IDD tailored plan.~~Department.

...
 (36) Standard benefit plan. – A capitated prepaid health plan contract under the Medicaid transformation demonstration waiver that meets all of the requirements of Article 4 of this Chapter except for the requirements pertaining only to a BH IDD tailored ~~plan~~ plan and only to the CAF specialty plan."

SECTION 9E.22.(d) G.S. 108D-5.3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 108D-5.3. Enrollee requests for disenrollment.

...
 (b) Without Cause Enrollee Requests for Disenrollment. – An enrollee shall be allowed to ~~disenroll~~request disenrollment from the PHP without cause only during the times specified in 42 C.F.R. § 438.56(c)(2), except that enrollees who are in any of the following groups may request to disenroll at any time:

- (1) Beneficiaries who meet the definition of Indian under 42 C.F.R. § 438.14(a).
- (2) Beneficiaries who are ~~enrolled in the foster care system described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(14).~~
- ~~(3) Beneficiaries who are in the former foster care Medicaid eligibility category.~~
- ~~(4) Beneficiaries who receive Title IV-E adoption assistance.~~
- (5) Beneficiaries who are receiving long-term services and supports in institutional or community-based settings.
- (6) Any other beneficiaries who are not required to enroll in a PHP under G.S. 108D-40.
- (7) Beneficiaries who are described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(12).

...."

SECTION 9E.22.(e) G.S. 108D-22 reads as rewritten:

"§ 108D-22. PHP provider networks.

(a) Except as provided in ~~G.S. 108D-23, G.S. 108D-23 and G.S. 108D-24,~~ each PHP shall develop and maintain a provider network that meets access to care requirements for its enrollees. A PHP may not exclude providers from their networks except for failure to meet objective quality standards or refusal to accept network rates. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, a PHP must include all providers in its geographical coverage area that are designated essential providers by the Department in accordance with subdivision (b) of this section, unless

1 the Department approves an alternative arrangement for securing the types of services offered by
 2 the essential providers.

3"

4 **SECTION 9E.22.(f)** Article 3 of Chapter 108D of the General Statutes is amended
 5 by adding a new section to read:

6 **"§ 108D-24. Children and families specialty plan networks.**

7 The entity operating the children and families specialty plan shall develop and maintain a
 8 closed network of providers only for the provision of the following services:

- 9 (1) Intensive in-home services.
- 10 (2) Multisystemic therapy.
- 11 (3) Residential treatment services.
- 12 (4) Services provided in private residential treatment facilities.

13 A closed network is the network of providers that have contracted with the entity operating
 14 the CAF specialty plan to furnish these services to enrollees."

15 **SECTION 9E.22.(g)** G.S. 108D-35(b) reads as rewritten:

16 "(b) The capitated contracts required by this section shall not cover any of the following:

- 17 (1) Medicaid services covered by the local management entities/managed care
 18 organizations (LME/MCOs) under the combined 1915(b) and (c) ~~waivers~~
 19 waivers, 1915(b)(3) services, and any services approved under the 1915(i)
 20 option shall not be covered under a standard benefit plan, except that all
 21 capitated PHP contracts shall cover the following services:
 - 22 a. Inpatient behavioral health services.
 - 23 b. Outpatient behavioral health emergency room services.
 - 24 c. Outpatient behavioral health services provided by direct-enrolled
 25 providers.
 - 26 d. Mobile crisis management services.
 - 27 e. Facility-based crisis services for children and adolescents.
 - 28 f. Professional treatment services in a facility-based crisis program.
 - 29 g. Outpatient opioid treatment services.
 - 30 h. Ambulatory detoxification services.
 - 31 i. Nonhospital medical detoxification services.
 - 32 j. Partial hospitalization.
 - 33 k. Medically supervised or alcohol and drug abuse treatment center
 34 detoxification crisis stabilization.
 - 35 l. Research-based intensive behavioral health treatment.
 - 36 m. Diagnostic assessment services.
 - 37 n. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment services.
 - 38 o. Peer support services.
 - 39 p. Behavioral health urgent care services.
 - 40 q. Substance abuse comprehensive outpatient treatment program
 41 services.
 - 42 r. Substance abuse intensive outpatient program services.
 - 43 s. Social settings detoxification services.
- 44 ~~In accordance with this subdivision, 1915(b)(3) services shall not be covered~~
 45 ~~under a standard benefit plan.~~

46"

47 **SECTION 9E.22.(h)** G.S. 108D-40 reads as rewritten:

48 **"§ 108D-40. Populations covered by PHPs.**

49 (a) Capitated PHP contracts shall cover all Medicaid program aid categories except for
 50 the following categories:

51 ...

(12) Recipients with a serious mental illness, a serious emotional disturbance, a severe substance use disorder, an intellectual/developmental disability, or who have survived a traumatic brain injury and who are receiving traumatic brain injury services, who are on the waiting list for the Traumatic Brain Injury waiver, or whose traumatic brain injury otherwise is a knowable fact, until BH IDD tailored plans become operational, at which time this population will be enrolled with a BH IDD tailored plan in accordance with ~~G.S. 108D-60(a)(10)~~. Recipients G.S. 108D-60(a)(10), except as described in subdivision (14) of this subsection. Except as provided in G.S. 108D-60(a)(11), recipients in this category shall have the option to voluntarily enroll with a PHP, PHP operating a standard benefit plan, provided that (i) a recipient electing to enroll with a PHP operating a standard benefit plan would only have access to the behavioral health services covered by PHPs according to G.S. 108D-35(1) standard benefit plans and would no longer have access to the behavioral health services excluded from standard benefit plans under G.S. 108D-35(1) and (ii) the recipient's informed consent shall be required prior to the recipient's enrollment with a PHP, PHP operating a standard benefit plan. Recipients in this category shall include, at a minimum, recipients who meet any of the following criteria:

(13) Recipients in the following categories shall not be covered by PHPs for a period of time to be determined by the Department that shall not exceed five years after the date that capitated PHP contracts begin:

e. ~~Recipients who are (i) enrolled in the foster care system, (ii) receiving Title IV E adoption assistance, (iii) under the age of 26 and formerly were in the foster care system, or (iv) under the age of 26 and formerly received adoption assistance.~~

(14) Until the CAF specialty plan becomes operational, recipients who are (i) children enrolled in foster care in this State, (ii) receiving adoption assistance, or (iii) former foster care youth until they reach the age of 26. When the CAF specialty plan becomes operational, recipients described in this subdivision will be enrolled in accordance with G.S. 108D-62.

...."

SECTION 9E.22.(i) G.S. 108D-45 reads as rewritten:

"§ 108D-45. Number and nature of ~~capitated PHP contracts~~ contracts for standard benefit plans.

The number and nature of the contracts for standard benefit plans required under ~~G.S. 108D-65(3)~~ G.S. 108D-65(6) shall be as follows:

(3) ~~The limitations on the number of contracts established in this section shall not apply to BH IDD tailored plans described in G.S. 108D-60.~~

SECTION 9E.22.(j) G.S. 108D-60 reads as rewritten:

"§ 108D-60. BH IDD tailored plans.

(a) BH IDD tailored plans shall be defined as capitated PHP contracts that meet all requirements in this Article pertaining to capitated PHP contracts, except as specifically provided in this section. With regard to BH IDD tailored plans, the following shall occur:

(10) Recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(12) shall be automatically enrolled with an entity operating a BH IDD tailored ~~plan and~~ plan, except that

recipients who are also described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(14) shall be enrolled in accordance with G.S. 108D-62. Except as provided in subdivision (11) of this subsection, recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(12) shall have the option to enroll with a PHP operating a standard benefit plan, provided that a recipient electing to enroll with a PHP operating a standard benefit plan would only have access to the behavioral health services covered by the standard benefit plans and would no longer have access to the behavioral health services excluded from standard benefit plan coverage under G.S. 108D-35(1) and provided that the recipient's informed consent shall be required prior to the recipient's enrollment with a PHP operating a standard benefit plan.

(11) Recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(12) shall not have the option to voluntarily enroll with a PHP operating a standard benefit plan or the CAF specialty plan while receiving services offered by the programs or in the settings specified below:

- a. Recipients enrolled in the Innovations waiver.
- b. Recipients enrolled in the Traumatic Brain Injury waiver.
- c. Recipients residing in or receiving respite services at an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.
- d. Recipients enrolled in and being served under Transitions to Community Living.
- e. Recipients receiving State-funded residential services, including group living, family living, supported living, and residential supports.

(b) The Department may contract with entities operating BH IDD tailored plans under a capitated or other arrangement for the management of behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disability, and traumatic brain injury services for any recipients ~~excluded from PHP coverage under G.S. 108D-40(a)(4), (5), (7), (10), (11), (12), and (13)~~ who are not enrolled in a BH IDD tailored plan or the CAF specialty plan."

SECTION 9E.22.(k) Article 4 of Chapter 108D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 108D-62. Children and families specialty plan.

(a) The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Caretaker relative. – As defined in 42 C.F.R. § 435.4.
- (2) Child. – A person who is under the age of 18, is not married, and has not been legally emancipated.
- (3) Custodian. – As defined in G.S. 7B-101.
- (4) Foster care. – The placement of a child who is described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(14) whose custody has been awarded by court order or pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement from the parent, custodian, or guardian (i) to the county department of social services or (ii) to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' Department of Public Health and Human Services.
- (5) Guardian. – A guardian of the person as defined in G.S. 35A-1202.
- (6) Minor. – A person who is under the age of 18.
- (7) Parent. – As defined in 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(b).
- (8) Reunification. – As defined in G.S. 7B-101.
- (9) Sibling. – As defined in 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(b).

(b) All of the following shall apply with regard to the CAF specialty plan:

- (1) The capitated contract for the CAF specialty plan shall be the result of a request for proposals issued by the Department. Only entities that meet the definition of PHP under G.S. 58-93-5 or under this Chapter are eligible to respond to the request for proposals issued by the Department to operate the

- 1 CAF specialty plan. Each eligible responding entity may submit only one
2 response to an RFP issued by the Department.
- 3 (2) An entity operating the CAF specialty plan shall authorize, pay for, and
4 manage all Medicaid services covered under the plan.
- 5 (3) An entity operating the CAF specialty plan shall operate care coordination
6 functions and provide whole-person, integrated care across healthcare and
7 treatment settings and foster care placements for recipients enrolled in the plan
8 to support family preservation, advance the reunification of families, support
9 the permanency goals of children, and support the health of former foster
10 youth.
- 11 (4) An entity operating the CAF specialty plan shall be the single point of care
12 management accountability.
- 13 (5) The Department shall establish requirements for the effective operation of the
14 CAF specialty plan that, at a minimum, shall address all of the following:
- 15 a. Continuity of care and support across healthcare settings, changes in
16 placement, and when the child transitions into the former foster youth
17 Medicaid eligibility category.
- 18 b. Managing care according to competencies specific to the recipients
19 described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(14) and to recipients receiving child
20 protective services in-home services, including medication
21 management, utilization of trauma-informed care, and any other areas
22 determined appropriate by the Department.
- 23 c. Coordination of activities with local governments, county departments
24 of social services, the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department
25 of Public Safety, and other related agencies that support the child
26 welfare system.
- 27 d. Approaches to address unmet health-related resource needs.
- 28 (c) In addition to the services required to be covered by all PHPs under G.S. 108D-35,
29 the CAF specialty plan shall cover the behavioral health, intellectual and developmental
30 disability, and traumatic brain injury services excluded from standard benefit plan coverage
31 under G.S. 108D-35(1), except that the CAF specialty plan shall not cover any of the following
32 services:
- 33 (1) Innovations waiver services.
- 34 (2) Traumatic Brain Injury waiver services.
- 35 (3) Services provided to recipients residing in or receiving respite services at an
36 intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- 37 (4) Services provided to recipients determined eligible to participate in and be
38 served under Transitions to Community Living.
- 39 (5) Non-Medicaid behavioral health services funded with federal, State, and local
40 funding in accordance with Chapter 122C of the General Statutes or other
41 applicable State and federal law, rules, and regulations.
- 42 (d) Unless ineligible under subsection (e) of this section, the following Medicaid
43 recipients shall be eligible to enroll in the CAF specialty plan:
- 44 (1) Recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(14) and their children. The children
45 shall be enrolled in the CAF specialty plan for as long as the parent remains
46 enrolled, unless the parent elects to enroll the child in another plan in
47 accordance with subsection (g) of this section.
- 48 (2) Adults identified on an open child protective services in-home family services
49 agreement case and any minor children living in the same home.

- 1 (3) Adults identified in an open Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Department of
2 Public Health and Human Services Family Safety program case and any
3 children living in the same home.
- 4 (4) The minor siblings of a child in foster care who lived in the same home as that
5 child at the time of the child's removal and with whom household reunification
6 efforts are ongoing.
- 7 (5) Recipients who have a child temporarily in foster care if all of the following
8 are met:
- 9 a. A court of competent jurisdiction has not found that aggravated
10 circumstances exist in accordance with G.S. 7B-901(c).
- 11 b. A court of competent jurisdiction has not found that a plan of
12 reunification would be unsuccessful or would be inconsistent with the
13 child's health or safety in accordance with G.S. 7B-906.1(d).
- 14 c. The recipient is any of the following:
- 15 1. A parent.
- 16 2. A caretaker relative.
- 17 3. A custodian.
- 18 4. A guardian.
- 19 (6) Any other recipients who have had involvement with the child welfare system
20 and whom the Department has determined would benefit from enrollment in
21 the CAF specialty plan.
- 22 (e) The following Medicaid recipients shall be not eligible to enroll in the CAF specialty
23 plan:
- 24 (1) Recipients who require services that are excluded from coverage by the CAF
25 specialty plan under subsection (c) of this section.
- 26 (2) Temporary safety provider caregivers identified on an open child protective
27 services in-home family services agreement case or an open Eastern Band of
28 Cherokee Indians Department of Public Health and Human Services Family
29 Safety program case.
- 30 (3) Recipients who are excluded from PHP coverage under G.S. 108D-40(a).
- 31 (f) Recipients described in subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall be automatically
32 enrolled in the CAF specialty plan, unless they are also described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(5), in which
33 case they may enroll voluntarily. All other recipients described under subsection (d) of this
34 section may enroll voluntarily in the CAF specialty plan.
- 35 (g) Except as limited by any provision of a waiver or State Plan amendment approved by
36 CMS, recipients eligible to enroll in the CAF specialty plan under subsection (d) of this section
37 shall have the option to enroll with a PHP operating a standard benefit plan or, if eligible under
38 G.S. 108D-40(a)(12), a BH IDD tailored plan. A recipient enrolled in the CAF specialty plan
39 who elects to enroll with a PHP operating a standard benefit plan would only have access to the
40 behavioral health services covered by the standard benefit plans and would no longer have access
41 to the behavioral health services excluded from standard benefit plan coverage under
42 G.S. 108D-35(1). The recipient's informed consent, or, as applicable, the informed consent of the
43 recipient's custodian or guardian, shall be required prior to the recipient's enrollment with a PHP
44 operating a standard benefit plan.
- 45 (h) Recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(14)(i) who exit the custody of the county
46 department of social services may elect to remain enrolled in the CAF specialty plan for 12
47 months after the date the recipient exits custody. In the case of recipients who achieve
48 reunification, any of the following individuals with whom the recipient reunifies may also elect
49 to remain enrolled in the CAF specialty plan as long as the recipient remains enrolled:
- 50 (1) A parent.
- 51 (2) A caretaker relative.

1 (3) A custodian.

2 (4) A guardian.

3 (5) A minor sibling."

4 **SECTION 9E.22.(l)** G.S. 122C-3 reads as rewritten:

5 **"§ 122C-3. Definitions.**

6 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

7 ...

8 (4a) Children and families specialty plan or CAF specialty plan. – As defined in
9 G.S. 108D-1.

10 ...

11 (20c) Local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO). – A local
12 management entity that is under contract with the Department to operate the
13 combined Medicaid Waiver program authorized under Section 1915(b) and
14 Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act or to operate a ~~BH IDD tailored~~
15 plan, capitated PHP contract under Article 4 of Chapter 108D of the General
16 Statutes.

17"

18 **SECTION 9E.22.(m)** G.S. 122C-115 reads as rewritten:

19 **"§ 122C-115. Duties of counties; appropriation and allocation of funds by counties and**
20 **cities.**

21 ...

22 (e) ~~Beginning on the date that capitated contracts under Article 4 of Chapter 108D of the~~
23 ~~General Statutes begin, July 1, 2021, LME/MCOs shall cease managing Medicaid services for~~
24 ~~all Medicaid recipients other than recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(1), (4), (5), (6), (7),~~
25 ~~(10), (11), (12), and (13), who are enrolled in a standard benefit plan.~~

26 (e1) Until BH IDD tailored plans become operational, all of the following shall occur:

27 (1) LME/MCOs shall continue to manage the Medicaid services that are covered
28 by the LME/MCOs under the combined 1915(b) and (c) waivers for Medicaid
29 recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(1), (4), (5), (6), (7), (10), (11), (12),
30 and (13), who are covered by the those waivers and who are not enrolled in a
31 standard benefit plan.

32 ...

33 (f) ~~Entities LME/MCOs operating the BH IDD tailored plans under G.S. 108D-60 may~~
34 ~~continue to manage the behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disability, and~~
35 ~~traumatic brain injury services for any Medicaid recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(4), (5),~~
36 ~~(7), (10), (11), (12), and (13) under any contract with the Department in accordance with~~
37 ~~G.S. 108D-60(b), who are not enrolled in a BH IDD tailored plan or the CAF specialty plan."~~

38 **SECTION 9E.22.(n)** Part 2 of Article 4 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is
39 amended by adding a new section to read:

40 **"§ 122C-115.5. Children and families specialty plan operation.**

41 An area authority is authorized to operate the CAF specialty plan under a contract with the
42 Department. For purposes of operating the CAF specialty plan only, all of the following apply:

43 (1) The area authority shall have a statewide catchment area.

44 (2) Counties are prohibited from withdrawing from or declining to participate in
45 the statewide catchment area of the CAF specialty plan."

46 **SECTION 9E.22.(o)** Except as otherwise provided, this section is effective when it
47 becomes law.

48 **AGENCY REQUESTED CHANGES/DHB**

49 **SECTION 9E.23.(a1)** G.S. 108A-68.2 reads as rewritten:

50 **"§ 108A-68.2. Beneficiary lock-in program for certain controlled substances.**

1 (a) The following definitions apply in this section:

2 ...

3 (2) ~~Lock-in program. – A requirement that a Medicaid beneficiary select a single~~
 4 ~~prescriber and a single pharmacy for obtaining covered substances. A~~
 5 requirement, consistent with 42 C.F.R. § 431.54(e), that restricts the number
 6 of prescribers from whom, and the number of pharmacies from which, a
 7 Medicaid beneficiary may obtain covered substances.

8 (3) Prepaid health plan or PHP. – As defined in G.S. 108D-1.

9 ...

10 ~~(d) This section does not apply to any lock-in program for Medicaid beneficiaries who~~
 11 ~~are not enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan.~~

12 (e) ~~A Prepaid Health Plan may~~ PHP shall develop a lock-in program for Medicaid
 13 beneficiaries who meet ~~any of the following criteria:~~ the criteria established in the Department's
 14 Outpatient Pharmacy Clinical Coverage Policy adopted in accordance with G.S. 108A-54.2.

15 (1) ~~Have filled six or more prescriptions for covered substances in a period of two~~
 16 ~~consecutive months.~~

17 (2) ~~Have received prescriptions for covered substances from three or more~~
 18 ~~providers in a period of two consecutive months.~~

19 (3) ~~Are recommended as a candidate for the lock-in program by a provider.~~

20 (f) A lock-in program developed pursuant to subsection (e) of this section shall comply
 21 with all of the following:

22 (1) A beneficiary shall not be subject to the lock-in program until the ~~Prepaid~~
 23 ~~Health Plan~~ PHP has notified the beneficiary in writing that the beneficiary
 24 will be subject to the lock-in program.

25 (2) A beneficiary subject to the lock-in program shall be given the opportunity to
 26 select a single prescriber and a single pharmacy from a list of prescribers and
 27 pharmacies in the ~~Prepaid Health Plan's~~ PHP's provider network. The
 28 beneficiary may be allowed to select up to two prescribers and two pharmacies
 29 when medically necessary, as designated by the State, in accordance with 42
 30 C.F.R. § 431.54(e). For any beneficiary who fails to select a single prescriber,
 31 the Prepaid Health Plan shall use algorithmic guidelines to assign the
 32 beneficiary a single prescriber from a list of prescribers in the Prepaid Health
 33 Plan's network. For any beneficiary who fails to select a single pharmacy,
 34 prescribers or pharmacies, the Prepaid Health Plan PHP shall use algorithmic
 35 guidelines to assign the beneficiary a single pharmacy from a list of
 36 prescribers or pharmacies enrolled in the Prepaid Health Plan's PHP's
 37 network.

38 (3) A beneficiary shall not be required to use the single prescriber or single
 39 pharmacy selected for the lock-in program to obtain prescriptions drugs
 40 covered by the Medicaid program or the ~~Prepaid Health Plan~~ PHP that are not
 41 covered substances.

42 (f1) If a PHP finds that a beneficiary has utilized Medicaid services at a frequency or
 43 amount that is not medically necessary, as determined in accordance with utilization guidelines
 44 established by the State, the restrictions in subsection (f) of this section may be imposed for a
 45 period of two years.

46 (g) ~~A Prepaid Health Plan's~~ PHP's use of a lock-in program developed pursuant to
 47 subsection (e) of this section shall not constitute a violation of the terms of a contract between
 48 the ~~Prepaid Health Plan~~ PHP and the Department that relate to a beneficiary's ability to utilize a
 49 prescriber or pharmacy of choice."

50 **SECTION 9E.23.(a2)** G.S. 58-51-37(l) reads as rewritten:

1 "(l) An insurer's use of a lock-in program developed pursuant to G.S. 58-51-37.1 or
2 G.S. 108A-68.2 is not a violation of this section."

3 **SECTION 9E.23.(a3)** Subsection (a1) of this section is effective on the later of the
4 date this act becomes law or the date that the NC Health Choice program is eliminated, as
5 approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in accordance with Section
6 9D.15(a) of S.L. 2022-74.

7 **SECTION 9E.23.(b1)** G.S. 150B-1(e)(25) reads as rewritten:

8 "(25) The Department of Health and Human Services with respect to disputes
9 involving the performance, terms, or conditions of a contract between the
10 Department and ~~a~~ any of the following:

11 a. A prepaid health plan, as defined in G.S. 108D-1.

12 b. A prepaid inpatient health plan, as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.2.

13 c. A primary care case management entity, as defined in 42 C.F.R. §
14 438.2."

15 **SECTION 9E.23.(b2)** Subsection (b1) of this section applies to disputes arising on
16 or after the date this act becomes law.

17 **SECTION 9E.23.(c1)** G.S. 108A-54.3A reads as rewritten:

18 "**§ 108A-54.3A. Eligibility categories and income thresholds.**

19 (a) The Department shall provide Medicaid coverage for individuals in accordance with
20 federal statutes and regulations and specifically shall provide coverage for the following
21 populations:

22 ...

23 (b) The applicable federal poverty guidelines for the eligibility categories in subsection
24 (a) of this section shall be updated annually on April 1 immediately following publication of the
25 federal poverty guidelines."

26 **SECTION 9E.23.(c2)** The Revisor of Statutes shall replace all references to
27 "G.S. 108A-54.3A(24)" with "G.S. 108A-54.3A(a)(24)" throughout the General Statutes.

28 **SECTION 9E.23.(c3)** Subsection (c1) of this section is effective retroactively to
29 June 26, 2020.

30 **SECTION 9E.23.(d1)** G.S. 108A-55.4 reads as rewritten:

31 "**§ 108A-55.4. ~~Insurers to provide certain information to~~ Requirements related to insurers**
32 **and the Department of Health and Human Services.**

33 ...

34 (b) Health insurers, and pharmacy benefit managers regulated as third-party
35 administrators under Article 56 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes, shall provide, with respect
36 to a subscriber upon request of the Division or its authorized contractor, information to determine
37 during what period the individual or the individual's spouse or dependents may ~~be~~ or be ~~or may~~
38 ~~have been~~ been covered by a health insurer and the nature of the coverage that is or was provided
39 by the health insurer ~~(including insurer, including~~ the subscriber's name, address, identification
40 number, social security number, date of birth and identifying number of the plan) insurance
41 policy, in a manner prescribed by the Division or its authorized contractor. Notwithstanding any
42 other provision of law, every health insurer shall provide, not more frequently than twelve times
43 in a year and at no cost, to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health
44 Benefits, or the Department's or Division's authorized contractor, upon its request, information
45 as necessary so that the Division may (i) identify applicants or recipients who may also be
46 subscribers covered under the benefit plans of the health insurer; (ii) determine the period during
47 which the individual, the individual's spouse, or the individual's dependents may be or may have
48 been covered by the health benefit plan; and (iii) determine the nature of the coverage. To
49 facilitate the Division or its authorized contractor in obtaining this and other related information,
50 every health insurer shall do all of the following:

51 ...

(4) ~~Respond~~ With regard to any inquiry by the Division or its authorized contractor regarding a claim for payment for any health care item or service that is submitted not later than three years after the date of the provision of the health care item or ~~service~~. service, respond within 60 days of receipt of the inquiry.

...

(e) All third parties, as defined under 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(25), requiring prior authorization of an item or service furnished to an individual eligible to receive medical assistance shall accept an authorization provided by the Department that the item or service for which third-party reimbursement is being sought is a covered service or item for that individual under the North Carolina Medicaid State Plan, or under a relevant waiver of the State Plan, as if that authorization is the prior authorization made by the third party for the item or service."

SECTION 9E.23.(d2) Subsection (d1) of this section is effective January 1, 2024.

SECTION 9E.23.(e1) G.S. 108A-54.3A(24), as enacted by Section 1.1(b) of S.L. 2023-7, reads as rewritten:

"(24) Individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Social Security Act who are in compliance with any federally approved work requirements established in the State Plan and in rule. Coverage for individuals under this subdivision is available through an Alternative Benefit Plan that is established by the Department consistent with federal requirements, unless that individual is exempt from mandatory enrollment in an Alternative Benefit Plan under 42 C.F.R. § 440.315."

SECTION 9E.23.(e2) Subsection (e1) of this section is effective on the later of the following dates:

(1) The date approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for Medicaid coverage to begin in North Carolina for individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Social Security Act.

(2) The date this act becomes law.

SECTION 9E.23.(f) Except as otherwise provided, this section is effective on the date this act becomes law.

ENSURE ADHERENCE TO MEDICAID STATE PLAN/REIMBURSEMENTS FOR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS

SECTION 9E.24. Consistent with the Medicaid State Plan, Attachment 4.19-B, Section 9, Page 2, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, shall set and adjust rates for new services provided by licensed ambulatory surgical centers so that these services are reimbursed at ninety-five percent (95%) of the Medicare Ambulatory Surgical Centers fee schedule in effect as of January 1 of each year.

INCREASE MEDICAID PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE

SECTION 9E.25. The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits (DHB), is directed to increase the personal needs allowance from thirty dollars (\$30.00) to seventy dollars (\$70.00) for individual Medicaid recipients who are institutionalized and from sixty dollars (\$60.00) to one hundred forty dollars (\$140.00) for married couples who are Medicaid recipients when both spouses are institutionalized. DHB shall deduct the applicable increased monthly amounts for personal needs from the total monthly income taken into consideration when applying the individual's or couple's income to the cost of institutionalized care. DHB shall submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) any amendments to the NC Medicaid State Plan or other documents necessary to implement this section. The increase in the personal needs allowance shall be implemented only upon approval and only as of the date approved by CMS.

1
2 **CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY USED FOR**
3 **SERVICES PROVIDED TO SENIOR DUAL ELIGIBLES**

4 **SECTION 9E.26.(a)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to continue to address
5 the need for changes to the Medicaid reimbursement methodology used for certain services
6 provided to seniors aged 65 and older who are dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid. The
7 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits (DHB), shall explore all
8 options available to increase access to Medicaid services for dual eligibles that provide
9 alternatives to nursing home placements, including adult care homes, special care units, and
10 in-home living, and do so in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The following actions shall
11 be taken by DHB, but DHB shall not implement any changes, new programs, or new services if
12 that implementation exceeds DHB's authority under G.S. 108A-54(e)(1) or creates a recurring
13 cost to the State that would reasonably be anticipated to exceed a future authorized budget for
14 the Medicaid program:

- 15 (1) Make a formal request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for
16 coverage by the Medicare program of services provided to individuals who
17 reside in adult care homes, assisted living settings, or special care units, or to
18 support in-home living of older individuals.
- 19 (2) Develop the proposed changes to the current Medicaid personal care services
20 under Clinical Coverage Policy 3L required to implement a per diem payment
21 for personal care services provided in a congregate setting in a manner, similar
22 to the payment methodology used by Washington state, as outlined in the
23 report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC
24 Health Choice entitled "Establish New Adult Care Home Payment
25 Methodology" dated June 10, 2022.
- 26 (3) Develop the proposed service definition and draft clinical coverage policy for
27 Adult Care Home Congregate Care Services (ACH CCS) as a new Medicaid
28 covered service, as outlined in the report to the Joint Legislative Oversight
29 Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice entitled "Establish New Adult
30 Care Home Payment Methodology" dated June 10, 2022. Additionally, DHB
31 shall develop the proposed per diem rate methodology to be used for these
32 services and create the proposed new independent assessment tool to be used.
- 33 (4) Identify what amendments may be needed to the 1115 waiver for Medicaid
34 transformation or the Medicaid State Plan to provide more appropriate
35 reimbursement for services provided to Medicaid recipients residing in adult
36 care homes or other congregate settings.
- 37 (5) Propose any pilot program or new Medicaid demonstration waiver to support
38 alternatives to nursing home placement for seniors.
- 39 (6) Design innovative payment and service delivery models, including Dual
40 Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) and Institutional Equivalent Special
41 Needs Plans (IE-SNPs) for assisted living facilities and adult care homes.

42 **SECTION 9E.26.(b)** No later than March 1, 2024, DHB shall submit a report to the
43 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice and the Fiscal
44 Research Division on all of the following as they relate to requirements under subsection (a) of
45 this section:

- 46 (1) The details of the request required to be submitted to CMS and the response
47 to the request by CMS.
- 48 (2) A draft of the proposed changes to Clinical Coverage Policy 3L and the annual
49 cost or savings to the State associated with the implementation of those
50 changes.

- 1 (3) A draft of the proposed service definition for ACH CSS and the associated per
2 diem rate methodology and assessment tool. This includes the annual cost or
3 savings to the State associated with the implementation of any or all of these
4 items.
- 5 (4) A draft of any 1115 waiver or State Plan amendments developed in
6 accordance with subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section. This includes
7 the annual cost or savings to the State associated with the implementation of
8 the waiver or State Plan amendments.
- 9 (5) Details on any pilot program or new Medicaid demonstration waiver being
10 proposed and any annual cost or savings to the State associated with the
11 implementation of each proposed pilot program or demonstration waiver.
- 12 (6) Details and a draft of any innovative payment and service delivery models
13 developed, including Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) and
14 Institutional Equivalent Special Needs Plans (IE-SNPs) for assisted living
15 facilities and adult care homes.
- 16 (7) A description of the stakeholders involved in the development of any plan or
17 proposal.
- 18 (8) Any recommended legislative changes.

20 **HASP/FREESTANDING PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS**

21 **SECTION 9E.27.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
22 Health Benefits (DHB), shall develop a proposal to allow freestanding psychiatric hospitals to
23 receive reimbursements through the healthcare access and stabilization program (HASP)
24 authorized under G.S. 108A-148.1, enacted by Section 1.4 of S.L. 2023-7, that are contingent
25 upon the receipt of the nonfederal share of the reimbursements through hospital assessments in
26 which those hospitals participate. In developing the proposal, DHB shall consider whether to
27 assess freestanding psychiatric hospitals under the existing hospital assessment structures in
28 Article 7B of Chapter 108A of the General Statutes or whether to develop another assessment
29 structure. The proposal shall ensure that the entire nonfederal share of the HASP reimbursements
30 to freestanding psychiatric hospitals is funded by increased receipts from hospital assessments.
31 DHB shall create all draft documents required to request federal approval of the developed
32 proposal. No documents shall be submitted requesting federal approval of the developed proposal
33 without further authorization from the General Assembly. DHB shall consult with staff from the
34 Fiscal Research Division, the Legislative Drafting Division, and the Legislative Analysis
35 Division to develop the proposed legislative changes necessary to impose the requisite hospital
36 assessments.

37 **SECTION 9E.27.(b)** By March 1, 2024, DHB shall submit a report to the Joint
38 Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice with all of the following
39 information related to the proposal developed under subsection (a) of this section:

- 40 (1) A detailed description of the proposal.
- 41 (2) Copies of the draft documents required to request the federal approval needed
42 to implement the developed proposal.
- 43 (3) Proposed legislative changes that would be needed to implement the proposal.
- 44 (4) An analysis of any impact to the HASP reimbursements to hospitals other than
45 freestanding psychiatric hospitals that might occur due to the limit on provider
46 assessments established under 42 C.F.R. § 433.68(f).

47 **SECTION 9E.27.(c)** This section is effective the date this act becomes law.

49 **PRIMARY CARE PAYMENT REFORM TASK FORCE**

1 **SECTION 9E.28.(a)** There is established the North Carolina Primary Care Payment
2 Reform Task Force (Task Force) within the Department of Health and Human Services, Division
3 of Health Benefits, for budgetary purposes only.

4 The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

- 5 (1) The Deputy Secretary for NC Medicaid, or the Deputy Secretary's designee.
- 6 (2) The Commissioner of the Department of Insurance, or the Commissioner's
7 designee.
- 8 (3) The Executive Administrator of the North Carolina State Health Plan for
9 Teachers and State Employees (State Health Plan), or the Executive
10 Administrator's designee.
- 11 (4) The Director of the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program,
12 or the Director's designee.
- 13 (5) The Director of the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority,
14 or the Director's designee.
- 15 (6) A physician representative of the North Carolina primary care community, as
16 selected by the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians.
- 17 (7) An advanced practice registered nurse representative of the North Carolina
18 primary care community, as selected by the North Carolina Nurses
19 Association.
- 20 (8) A representative of the North Carolina commercial health insurance
21 community, as selected by the North Carolina Association of Health Plans.

22 All members of the Task Force are voting members. Any vacancies that occur for any
23 membership positions that are not held as a function of office shall be filled by the selecting body
24 upon vacancy. The Deputy Secretary for NC Medicaid, or the Deputy Secretary's designee, shall
25 serve as the chair of the Task Force.

26 **SECTION 9E.28.(b)** The Task Force established under subsection (a) of this section
27 shall have the following duties:

- 28 (1) Establish a definition of primary care to be utilized by the Task Force. This
29 term should be applicable to services and care provided under the NC
30 Medicaid program, the State Health Plan, and commercial insurance.
- 31 (2) Conduct an actuarial evaluation of the current healthcare spend on primary
32 care services, both as it relates to the NC Medicaid program and the
33 commercial market, including Medicare Advantage plans.
- 34 (3) Determine the adequacy of the primary care delivery system in North
35 Carolina, including the impact this system has on the supply of the primary
36 care providers in this State.
- 37 (4) Study the primary care payment landscape in other states, specifically
38 considering states that have implemented a minimum primary care spend.
- 39 (5) Identify data collection and measurement systems to inform creation of a
40 primary care investment target for the NC Medicaid program, the State Health
41 Plan, and commercial insurance. This includes a method by which to measure
42 improvements made toward that target.
- 43 (6) Evaluate the need for a permanent Primary Care Payment Reform Task Force,
44 or other similar entity, including which State agency or body is best suited to
45 oversee the work of that group.
- 46 (7) Perform any other studies, evaluations, or determinations the Task Force
47 considers necessary.

48 **SECTION 9E.28.(c)** No later than April 1, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a report
49 with its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health
50 and Human Services and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health

1 Choice. These findings and recommendations shall include specific, concrete, and actionable
2 steps to be undertaken by the State and upon which the General Assembly could act.

3 **SECTION 9E.28.(d)** This section shall expire on May 1, 2024.
4

5 **PART IX-F. HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION**

6 **EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF NEED EXEMPTION**

7 **SECTION 9F.1.** Section 9E.4A(c) of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

8 "SECTION 9E.4A.(c) This section is effective 30 days after this act becomes law, and
9 expires ~~December 31, 2024.~~December 31, 2027."
10

11 **CERTIFICATE OF NEED EXEMPTION FOR PHYSICIAN OFFICE-BASED 12 VASCULAR ACCESS FOR HEMODIALYSIS**

13 **SECTION 9F.2.(a)** G.S. 131E-175 is amended by adding the following new
14 subdivisions to read:

15 "(13) That physicians providing care for vascular access sites in nonlicensed
16 settings should be given an opportunity to obtain a license to provide those
17 services to ensure the safety of patients and the provision of quality care.

18 (14) That demand for establishing and maintaining alternative settings for vascular
19 access procedures, which are commonly performed in emergency
20 departments, is increasing at a rapid rate as more North Carolinians are living
21 longer with end-stage renal disease.

22 (15) That continuing to treat vulnerable patients with end-stage renal disease in
23 nonhospital settings lowers costs, reduces overnight hospital stays, and keeps
24 patients healthier."
25

26 **SECTION 9F.2.(b)** G.S. 131E-178 reads as rewritten:

27 "**§ 131E-178. Activities requiring certificate of need; limited exemptions for
28 gastrointestinal endoscopy and vascular access for hemodialysis.**

29 (a) No person shall offer or develop a new institutional health service without first
30 obtaining a certificate of need from the ~~Department; provided, however, no~~ Department, except
31 as provided in subsections (a1) and (a2) of this section.

32 (a1) No person who provides gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures in one or more
33 gastrointestinal endoscopy rooms located in a nonlicensed setting, shall be required to obtain a
34 certificate of need to license that setting as an ambulatory surgical facility with the existing
35 number of gastrointestinal endoscopy rooms, provided ~~that~~ that the person meets all of the
36 following criteria:

37 (1) The license application is postmarked for delivery to the Division of Health
38 Service Regulation by December 31, ~~2006;~~2006.

39 (2) The applicant verifies, by affidavit submitted to the Division of Health Service
40 Regulation within 60 days of the effective date of this act, that the facility was
41 in operation as of the effective date of this act or that the completed application
42 for the building permit for the facility was submitted by the effective date of
43 this ~~act;~~act.

44 (3) The facility has been accredited by The Accreditation Association for
45 Ambulatory Health Care, ~~The Joint Commission on Accreditation of
46 Healthcare Organizations,~~ The Joint Commission, or The American
47 Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities by the time
48 the license application is postmarked for delivery to the Division of Health
49 Service Regulation of the ~~Department;~~ and Department.

50 (4) The license application includes a commitment to and a plan for serving
51 indigent and medically underserved populations.

1 All other persons proposing to obtain a license to establish an ambulatory surgical facility for
 2 the provision of gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures shall be required to obtain a certificate of
 3 need. The annual State Medical Facilities Plan shall not include policies or need determinations
 4 that limit the number of gastrointestinal endoscopy rooms that may be approved.

5 (a2) No person who provides vascular access for hemodialysis in a physician office-based
 6 vascular access center located in a nonlicensed setting shall be required to obtain a certificate of
 7 need to license that setting as an ambulatory surgical facility with the existing number of vascular
 8 access procedure rooms, provided that the person meets all of the following criteria:

- 9 (1) The license application is postmarked for delivery to the Division of Health
 10 Service Regulation by December 31, 2023.
- 11 (2) The applicant verifies, by affidavit submitted to the Division of Health Service
 12 Regulation within 60 days after the effective date of this act, that the facility
 13 was in operation as of the effective date of this act or that the completed
 14 application for the building permit for the facility was submitted by the
 15 effective date of this act.
- 16 (3) The facility has been accredited by the Accreditation Association for
 17 Ambulatory Health Care, The Joint Commission, or the American Association
 18 for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities by the time the license
 19 application is postmarked for delivery to the Division of Health Service
 20 Regulation of the Department.
- 21 (4) The license application includes a commitment to and a plan for serving
 22 indigent and medically underserved populations.

23 All other persons proposing to obtain a license to establish an ambulatory surgical facility for
 24 the provision of vascular access site management shall be required to obtain a certificate of need.
 25 The annual State Medical Facilities Plan shall not include policies or need determinations that
 26 limit the number of vascular access procedure rooms that may be approved.

27"

28 **SECTION 9F.2.(c)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2023.

29
 30 **ELIMINATION OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW FOR KIDNEY DISEASE**
 31 **TREATMENT CENTERS, INCLUDING FREESTANDING DIALYSIS UNITS**

32 **SECTION 9F.3.(a)** G.S. 131E-176, as amended by Section 3.1 of S.L. 2023-7, reads
 33 as rewritten:

34 **"§ 131E-176. Definitions.**

35 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 36 ...
- 37 (2) Bed capacity. – Space used exclusively for inpatient care, including space
 38 designed or remodeled for licensed inpatient beds even though temporarily
 39 not used for such purposes. The number of beds to be counted in any patient
 40 room shall be the maximum number for which adequate square footage is
 41 provided as established by rules of the Department except that single beds in
 42 single rooms are counted even if the room contains inadequate square footage.
 43 ~~The term "bed capacity" also refers to the number of dialysis stations in kidney~~
 44 ~~disease treatment centers, including freestanding dialysis units.~~
- 45 ...
- 46 (5) Change in bed capacity. – Any of the following:
 47 a. Any relocation of health service facility ~~beds, or dialysis stations~~ beds
 48 from one licensed facility or campus to another.
 49 b. Any redistribution of health service facility bed capacity among the
 50 categories of health service facility bed.

c. Any increase in the number of health service facility beds, or dialysis stations in kidney disease treatment centers, including freestanding dialysis units, beds.

...
 (9b) Health service facility. – A hospital; long-term care hospital; rehabilitation facility; nursing home facility; adult care home; kidney disease treatment center, including freestanding hemodialysis units; intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities; home health agency office; diagnostic center; hospice office, hospice inpatient facility, hospice residential care facility; and ambulatory surgical facility.

(9c) Health service facility bed. – A bed licensed for use in a health service facility in the categories of (i) acute care beds; (iii) rehabilitation beds; (iv) nursing home beds; (v) intermediate care beds for individuals with intellectual disabilities; (vii) hospice inpatient facility beds; (viii) hospice residential care facility beds; (ix) adult care home beds; and (x) long-term care hospital beds.

...
 (16) New institutional health services. – Any of the following:

d. The offering of dialysis services or home health services by or on behalf of a health service facility if those services were not offered within the previous 12 months by or on behalf of the facility.

...."
SECTION 9F.3.(b) G.S. 131E-183(a)(1) reads as rewritten:
 "(1) The proposed project shall be consistent with applicable policies and need determinations in the State Medical Facilities Plan, the need determination of which constitutes a determinative limitation on the provision of any health service, health service facility, health service facility beds, dialysis stations, operating rooms, or home health offices that may be approved."

SECTION 9F.3.(c) This section becomes effective October 1, 2023.

ELIMINATION OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW FOR LINEAR ACCELERATORS

SECTION 9F.4. Effective October 1, 2023, G.S. 131E-176(14g) and G.S. 131E-176(16)f1.5a. are repealed.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED EXEMPTION FOR THE RELOCATION OF AN EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH SERVICE OR HEALTH SERVICE FACILITY WITHIN THE SAME COUNTY

SECTION 9F.5.(a) G.S. 131E-184, as amended by Section 3.1 of S.L. 2023-7, is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(i) The Department shall exempt from certificate of need review the relocation of an institutional health service or a health service facility for which a certificate of need has already been issued; provided, however, that the relocation of the institutional health service or health service facility is to another site within the same county."

SECTION 9F.5.(b) This section becomes effective October 1, 2023.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED REFORM FOR MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SCANNERS

SECTION 9F.6.(a) G.S. 131E-176, as amended by this act and Section 3.3 of S.L. 2023-7, reads as rewritten:

"§ 131E-176. Definitions.

1 The following definitions apply in this Article:

2 ...

3 (2d) Capital expenditure. – An expenditure for a project, including but not limited to
4 to the cost of construction, engineering, and equipment which under generally
5 accepted accounting principles is not properly chargeable as an expense of
6 operation and maintenance. Capital expenditure includes, in addition, the fair
7 market value of an acquisition made by donation, lease, or comparable
8 arrangement by which a person obtains equipment, the expenditure for which
9 would have been considered a capital expenditure under this Article if the
10 person had acquired it by purchase. A capital expenditure does not include an
11 expenditure for, or the fair market value of, a magnetic resonance imaging
12 scanner located in a county that meets either of the following criteria:

- 13 a. Has a population greater than 125,000 according to the 2020 federal
14 decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial census.
15 b. Has a population of 125,000 or less according to the 2020 federal
16 decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial census and does
17 not have a hospital presently operating in the county.

18 ...

19 (7a) Diagnostic center. – "Diagnostic center" means a freestanding facility,
20 program, or provider, including but not limited to, physicians' offices, clinical
21 laboratories, radiology centers, and mobile diagnostic programs, in which the
22 total cost of all the medical diagnostic equipment utilized by the facility which
23 cost ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more exceeds three million dollars
24 (\$3,000,000). ~~No facility, program, or provider, including, but not limited to,
25 physicians' offices, clinical laboratories, radiology centers, or mobile
26 diagnostic programs, shall be deemed a diagnostic center solely by virtue of
27 having a magnetic resonance imaging scanner in a county with a population
28 of greater than 125,000 according to the 2020 federal decennial census or any
29 subsequent federal decennial census.~~ In determining whether the medical
30 diagnostic equipment in a diagnostic center costs more than three million
31 dollars (\$3,000,000), the costs of the equipment, studies, surveys, designs,
32 plans, working drawings, specifications, construction, installation, and other
33 activities essential to acquiring and making operational the equipment shall be
34 ~~included.~~ included; provided, however, that the costs associated with a
35 magnetic resonance imaging scanner shall not be included if the magnetic
36 resonance imaging scanner is located in a county that meets either of the
37 following criteria: (i) has a population greater than 125,000 according to the
38 2020 federal decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial census or
39 (ii) has a population of 125,000 or less according to the 2020 federal decennial
40 census or any subsequent federal decennial census and does not have a
41 hospital presently operating in the county. The capital expenditure for the
42 equipment shall be deemed to be the fair market value of the equipment or the
43 cost of the equipment, whichever is greater. Beginning September 30, 2022,
44 and on September 30 each year thereafter, the cost threshold amount in this
45 subdivision shall be adjusted using the Medical Care Index component of the
46 Consumer Price Index published by the U.S. Department of Labor for the
47 12-month period preceding the previous September 1.

48 ...

49 (14m) Magnetic resonance imaging scanner. – Medical imaging equipment that uses
50 nuclear magnetic resonance. This term includes fixed and mobile medical
51 imaging equipment that uses nuclear magnetic resonance.

1 ...
 2 (14o) Major medical equipment. – "Major medical equipment" means a single unit
 3 or single system of components with related functions which is used to
 4 provide medical and other health services and which costs more than two
 5 million dollars (\$2,000,000). In determining whether the major medical
 6 equipment costs more than two million dollars (\$2,000,000), the costs of the
 7 equipment, studies, surveys, designs, plans, working drawings, specifications,
 8 construction, installation, and other activities essential to acquiring and
 9 making operational the major medical equipment shall be included. The
 10 capital expenditure for the equipment shall be deemed to be the fair market
 11 value of the equipment or the cost of the equipment, whichever is greater.
 12 Major medical equipment does not include replacement equipment as defined
 13 in this ~~section or magnetic section~~. Major medical equipment also does not
 14 include magnetic resonance imaging scanners in counties with that meet either
 15 of the following criteria: (i) have a population greater than 125,000 according
 16 to the 2020 federal decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial
 17 eensus-census or (ii) have a population of 125,000 or less according to the
 18 2020 federal decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial census and
 19 do not have a hospital presently operating in the county. Beginning September
 20 30, 2022, and on September 30 each year thereafter, the cost threshold amount
 21 in this subdivision shall be adjusted using the Medical Care Index component
 22 of the Consumer Price Index published by the U.S. Department of Labor for
 23 the 12-month period preceding the previous September 1.

24 ...
 25 (16) New institutional health services. – Any of the following:
 26 ...
 27 f1. The acquisition by purchase, donation, lease, transfer, or comparable
 28 arrangement of any of the following equipment by or on behalf of any
 29 person:
 30 1. Air ambulance.
 31 2. Repealed by Session Laws 2005-325, s. 1, effective for
 32 hospices and hospice offices December 31, 2005.
 33 3. Cardiac catheterization equipment.
 34 4. Gamma knife.
 35 5. Heart-lung bypass machine.
 36 ~~5a. Linear accelerator.~~
 37 6. Lithotripter.
 38 7. Magnetic resonance imaging scanner. This
 39 sub-sub-subdivision applies only to counties ~~with that meet~~
 40 both of the following criteria: (i) have a population of 125,000
 41 or less according to the 2020 federal decennial census or any
 42 subsequent federal decennial eensus-census and (ii) have a
 43 hospital presently operating in the county.
 44 8. Positron emission tomography scanner.
 45 9. Simulator.

46"
 47 **SECTION 9F.6.(b)** Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective three years from
 48 the date the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issues the first directed payment
 49 in accordance with the Healthcare Access and Stabilization Program (HASP) under
 50 G.S. 108A-148.1, as enacted by Section 1.4 of S.L. 2023-7, and applies to activities occurring on
 51 or after that date. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify the Revisor of Statutes

1 when DHHS has issued the first directed payment in accordance with HASP and the date of
 2 issuance. If DHHS has not made any HASP directed payments by June 30, 2025, then subsection
 3 (a) of this section shall expire on that date.

4 **SECTION 9F.6.(c)** Except as otherwise provided, this section is effective when it
 5 becomes law.

6
 7 **ELIMINATION OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW FOR THE CONVERSION OF**
 8 **SPECIALTY AMBULATORY SURGICAL PROGRAMS TO MULTISPECIALTY**
 9 **PROGRAMS AND FOR THE ADDITION OF A SPECIALTY TO A SPECIALTY**
 10 **AMBULATORY SURGICAL PROGRAM**

11 **SECTION 9F.7.** Effective October 1, 2023, G.S. 131E-176(16)r. is repealed.

12
 13 **CERTIFICATE OF NEED REFORMS FOR AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITIES**

14 **SECTION 9F.8.(a)** G.S. 131E-176, as amended by this act and Section 3.2 of S.L.
 15 2023-7, reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 131E-176. Definitions.**

17 The following definitions apply in this Article:

18 ...

19 (9b) Health service facility. – A hospital; long-term care hospital; rehabilitation
 20 facility; nursing home facility; adult care home; intermediate care facility for
 21 individuals with intellectual disabilities; home health agency office;
 22 diagnostic center; hospice office, hospice inpatient facility, hospice residential
 23 care facility; and ambulatory surgical facility. The term "health service
 24 facility" does not include a qualified ~~urban~~-ambulatory surgical facility.

25 ...

26 (21a) Qualified ~~urban~~-ambulatory surgical facility. – An ambulatory surgical facility
 27 that ~~meets~~ elects to opt out of the certificate of need requirements established
 28 by this Article by demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Department that the
 29 facility meets all of the following criteria:

- 30 a. Is licensed by the Department to operate as ~~an~~ a qualified ambulatory
 31 surgical facility.
 32 b. Has a single specialty or multispecialty ambulatory surgical program.
 33 c. Is located in a county ~~with that meets one of the following criteria:~~
 34 1. Has a population greater than 125,000 according to the 2020
 35 federal decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial
 36 census.
 37 2. Has a population less than 125,000 according to the 2020
 38 federal decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial
 39 census and does not have a hospital presently operating in the
 40 county.

41"

42 **SECTION 9F.8.(b)** G.S. 131E-146(3), as amended by Section 3.2 of S.L. 2023-7,
 43 reads as rewritten:

44 "(3) "Qualified ~~urban~~-ambulatory surgical facility" means an ambulatory surgical
 45 facility that meets ~~the definition of G.S. 131E-176(21a)~~ all of the following
 46 criteria:

- 47 a. Has a single specialty or multispecialty ambulatory surgical program.
 48 b. Has a population less than 125,000 according to the 2020 federal
 49 decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial census and does
 50 not have a hospital presently operating in the county."

51 **SECTION 9F.8.(c)** G.S. 131E-147 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 131E-147. Licensure requirement.**

2 (a) No person shall operate an ambulatory surgical facility or a qualified ambulatory
3 surgical facility without a license obtained from the Department.

4 (b) Applications shall be available from the Department, and each application filed with
5 the Department shall contain all necessary and reasonable information that the Department may
6 by rule require. A license shall be granted to the applicant upon a determination by the
7 Department that the applicant has complied with the provisions of this Part and the rules
8 promulgated by the Commission under this Part. The Department shall charge the applicant a
9 nonrefundable annual base license fee in the amount of eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) plus
10 a nonrefundable annual per-operating room fee in the amount of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).

11 (c) A license to operate an ambulatory surgical facility or a qualified ambulatory surgical
12 facility shall be annually renewed upon the filing and the department's approval of a renewal
13 application. The renewal application shall be available from the Department and shall contain all
14 necessary and reasonable information that the Department may by rule require.

15 (d) Each license shall be issued only for the premises and persons named in the
16 application and shall not be transferable or assignable except with the written approval of the
17 Department.

18 (e) Licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the licensed premises."

19 **SECTION 9F.8.(d)** An ambulatory surgical facility that obtained a license under
20 Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes prior to July 1, 2025, may submit a
21 renewal application to operate as a qualified ambulatory surgical facility upon the expiration of
22 its current license. The Department of Health and Human Services shall approve each renewal
23 application submitted pursuant to this subsection provided the applicant pays the prescribed fee
24 for a renewal application to operate as a qualified ambulatory surgical facility and meets all of
25 the applicable licensure criteria.

26 **SECTION 9F.8.(e)** G.S. 131E-147.5, as enacted by Section 3.2 of S.L. 2023-7, reads
27 as rewritten:

28 **"§ 131E-147.5. Charity care requirement for qualified ~~urban~~ ambulatory surgical**
29 **facilities; annual report.**

30 (a) The percentage of each qualified ~~urban~~ ambulatory surgical facility's total earned
31 revenue that is attributed to self-pay and Medicaid revenue shall be equivalent to at least four
32 percent (4%), calculated as follows: the Medicare allowable amount for self-pay and Medicaid
33 surgical cases minus all revenue earned from self-pay and Medicaid cases, divided by the total
34 earned revenues for all surgical cases, divided by the total earned revenues for all surgical cases
35 performed in the facility for procedures for which there is a Medicare allowable fee.

36 (b) Each qualified ~~urban~~ ambulatory surgical facility shall annually report to the
37 Department in the manner prescribed by the Department the percentage of the facility's earned
38 revenue that is attributed to self-pay and Medicaid revenue, as calculated in accordance with
39 subsection (a) of this section."

40 **SECTION 9F.8.(f)** Subsections (a) through (e) of this section become effective two
41 years from the date the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issues the first
42 directed payment in accordance with the Healthcare Access and Stabilization Program (HASP)
43 under G.S. 108A-148.1, as enacted by Section 1.4 of S.L. 2023-7, and apply to activities
44 occurring on or after that date. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify the
45 Revisor of Statutes when the DHHS has issued the first directed payment in accordance with
46 HASP and the date of issuance. If the DHHS has not made any HASP directed payments by June
47 30, 2025, then subsections (a) through (d) of this section shall expire on that date.

48 **SECTION 9F.8.(g)** Except as otherwise provided, this section is effective when it
49 becomes law.

50

1 **REPEAL OF TERRITORIAL LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO HOSPITAL**
2 **AUTHORITIES**

3 **SECTION 9F.9.** Effective July 1, 2023, G.S. 131E-20 is repealed.
4

5 **DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION REPORT**

6 **SECTION 9F.10.** Beginning September 1, 2023, and every six months thereafter,
7 the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation, shall
8 submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and
9 the Fiscal Research Division on all of the following for the six-month period preceding the date
10 of the report:

- 11 (1) For each facility type the DHSR has a duty imposed by State or federal law to
12 inspect:
 - 13 a. The number of facilities seeking initial licensure in the State.
 - 14 b. The number of facilities licensed and operating in the State.
 - 15 c. The frequency of the inspection requirement.
 - 16 d. Whether the DHSR is current on completing the required inspections.
- 17 (2) For the Complaint Intake Unit:
 - 18 a. The number of complaints received for each facility type.
 - 19 b. The applicable time line for investigating these complaints.
 - 20 c. Whether the DHSR is current on investigating these complaints.
- 21 (3) The total amount of compensatory time accrued by staff, broken down by
22 Section.
- 23 (4) The total amount of overtime hours worked by staff, broken down by Section.
- 24 (5) The total amount of lapsed salary funds and, of that amount, the total amount
25 used for the following purposes, broken down by Section:
 - 26 a. To hire temporary or contract staff to assist the DHSR in performing
27 its duties.
 - 28 b. To provide overtime compensation to staff.
 - 29 c. To provide salary supplements to staff.
 - 30 d. To provide performance bonuses to staff.
- 31 (6) An explanation of any problems the DHSR is experiencing with recruiting or
32 retaining staff, broken down by Section.

33
34 **PART IX-G. MENTAL HEALTH/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES/SUBSTANCE**
35 **ABUSE SERVICES**
36

37 **SINGLE-STREAM FUNDING FOR DMH/DD/SAS COMMUNITY SERVICES**

38 **SECTION 9G.1.(a)** For the purpose of mitigating cash flow problems that many
39 local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) experience at the
40 beginning of each fiscal year relative to single-stream funding, the Department of Health and
41 Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse
42 Services (DMH/DD/SAS), shall distribute not less than one-twelfth of each LME/MCO's base
43 budget allocation at the beginning of the fiscal year and subtract the amount of that distribution
44 from the LME/MCO's total reimbursements for the fiscal year. For each month of the fiscal year
45 after July, DMH/DD/SAS shall distribute, on the third working day of the month, one-eleventh
46 of the amount of each LME/MCO's single-stream allocation that remains after subtracting the
47 amount of the distribution that was made to the LME/MCO in July of the fiscal year.

48 **SECTION 9G.1.(b)** During each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium,
49 DMH/DD/SAS shall ensure that LME/MCOs fund, in total, at least ninety percent (90%) of the
50 level of single-stream services provided across the State during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. No
51 LME/MCO shall reduce funding for (i) home and community-based services or (ii) services paid

1 for with single-stream funding that support the 2012 settlement agreement entered into between
2 the United States Department of Justice and the State of North Carolina to ensure that the State
3 will willingly meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 504
4 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the United States Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v.*
5 *L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999). This subsection shall not be construed to require an LME/MCO to
6 authorize or maintain the same level of services for any specific individual whose services were
7 paid for with single-stream funding. This subsection shall not be construed to create a private
8 right of action for any person or entity against the State of North Carolina or the Department of
9 Health and Human Services or any of its divisions, agents, or contractors and shall not be used
10 as authority in any contested case brought pursuant to Chapter 108C of the General Statutes or
11 Chapter 108D of the General Statutes.

12 **SECTION 9G.1.(c)** If, on or after June 1, 2024, the Office of State Budget
13 Management (OSBM) certifies a Medicaid budget surplus and sufficient cash in Budget Code
14 14445 to meet total obligations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, then DHB shall transfer to
15 DMH/DD/SAS funds not to exceed the amount of the certified surplus or thirty million dollars
16 (\$30,000,000), whichever is less.

17 18 **LOCAL INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BEDS OR BED DAYS**

19 **SECTION 9G.2.(a)** Use of Funds. – Funds appropriated in this act to the Department
20 of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
21 Substance Abuse Services, shall continue to be used for the purchase of local inpatient psychiatric
22 beds or bed days. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall continue to
23 implement a two-tiered system of payment for purchasing these local inpatient psychiatric beds
24 or bed days based on acuity level with an enhanced rate of payment for inpatient psychiatric beds
25 or bed days for individuals with higher acuity levels, as defined by DHHS. The enhanced rate of
26 payment for inpatient psychiatric beds or bed days for individuals with higher acuity levels shall
27 not exceed the lowest average cost per patient bed day among the State psychiatric hospitals. In
28 addition, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, existing funds allocated
29 to LME/MCOs for community-based mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance
30 abuse services may be used to purchase additional local inpatient psychiatric beds or bed days.

31 **SECTION 9G.2.(b)** Distribution and Management of Beds or Bed Days. – DHHS
32 shall work to ensure that any local inpatient psychiatric beds or bed days purchased in accordance
33 with this section are utilized solely for individuals who are medically indigent, except that DHHS
34 may use up to ten percent (10%) of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health
35 and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance
36 Abuse Services, for the purchase of local inpatient psychiatric beds or bed days to pay for
37 facility-based crisis services and nonhospital detoxification services for individuals in need of
38 these services, regardless of whether the individuals are medically indigent. For the purposes of
39 this subsection, "medically indigent" shall mean uninsured persons who (i) are financially unable
40 to obtain private insurance coverage, as determined by DHHS and (ii) are not eligible for
41 government-funded health coverage such as Medicare or Medicaid.

42 In addition, DHHS shall work to ensure that any local inpatient psychiatric beds or
43 bed days purchased in accordance with this section are distributed across the State and according
44 to need, as determined by DHHS. DHHS shall ensure that beds or bed days for individuals with
45 higher acuity levels are distributed across the State and according to greatest need based on
46 hospital bed utilization data. DHHS shall enter into contracts with LME/MCOs and local
47 hospitals for the management of these beds or bed days. DHHS shall work to ensure that these
48 contracts are awarded equitably around all regions of the State. LME/MCOs shall manage and
49 control these local inpatient psychiatric beds or bed days, including the determination of the
50 specific local hospital or State psychiatric hospital to which an individual should be admitted
51 pursuant to an involuntary commitment order.

1 **SECTION 9G.2.(c)** Funds to be Held in Statewide Reserve. – Funds appropriated in
 2 this act to DHHS for the purchase of local inpatient psychiatric beds or bed days shall not be
 3 allocated to LME/MCOs but shall be held in a statewide reserve at the Division of Mental Health,
 4 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services to pay for services authorized by the
 5 LME/MCOs and billed by the hospitals through the LME/MCOs. LME/MCOs shall remit claims
 6 for payment to DHHS within 15 working days after receipt of a clean claim from the hospital
 7 and shall pay the hospital within 30 working days after receipt of payment from DHHS.

8 **SECTION 9G.2.(d)** Ineffective LME/MCO Management of Beds or Bed Days. – If
 9 DHHS determines that (i) an LME/MCO is not effectively managing the beds or bed days for
 10 which it has responsibility, as evidenced by beds or bed days in the local hospital not being
 11 utilized while demand for services at the State psychiatric hospitals has not decreased, or (ii) the
 12 LME/MCO has failed to comply with the prompt payment provisions of this section, DHHS may
 13 contract with another LME/MCO to manage the beds or bed days or, notwithstanding any other
 14 provision of law to the contrary, may pay the hospital directly.

15 **SECTION 9G.2.(e)** Reporting by LME/MCOs. – LME/MCOs shall be required to
 16 report to DHHS regarding the utilization of these beds or bed days.

17 **SECTION 9G.2.(f)** Reporting by DHHS. – By no later than December 1, 2024, and
 18 by no later than December 1, 2025, DHHS shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight
 19 Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division on all of the
 20 following:

- 21 (1) A uniform system for beds or bed days purchased during the preceding fiscal
 22 year from (i) existing State appropriations and (ii) local funds.
- 23 (2) An explanation of the process used by DHHS to ensure that, except as
 24 otherwise provided in subsection (a) of this section, local inpatient psychiatric
 25 beds or bed days purchased in accordance with this section are utilized solely
 26 for individuals who are medically indigent, along with the number of
 27 medically indigent individuals served by the purchase of these beds or bed
 28 days.
- 29 (3) The amount of funds used to pay for facility-based crisis services, along with
 30 the number of individuals who received these services and the outcomes for
 31 each individual.
- 32 (4) The amount of funds used to pay for nonhospital detoxification services, along
 33 with the number of individuals who received these services and the outcomes
 34 for each individual.
- 35 (5) Other DHHS initiatives funded by State appropriations to reduce State
 36 psychiatric hospital use.

37
 38 **IMPROVING THE ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT OF JUVENILES PRESENTING**
 39 **TO THE HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**

40 **SECTION 9G.2A.(a)** G.S. 122C-142.2 reads as rewritten:

41 "**§ 122C-142.2. Presentation at a hospital for mental health ~~treatment.~~treatment;**
 42 **assessment and placement upon discharge.**

43 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- 44 (1) Assessment. – A comprehensive clinical assessment, psychiatric evaluation,
 45 or a substantially equivalent assessment.
- 46 (2) ~~Director.~~ County director. – The director of the county department of social
 47 services in the county in which the juvenile resides or is found, with custody
 48 of the juvenile, or the county director's representative as authorized in
 49 G.S. 108A-14.
- 50 (3) Reserved for future codification purposes.

- 1 (4) Rapid Response Team. – A Department of Health and Human Services team
 2 of representatives from all of the following:
 3 a. The Division of Child and Family Well-Being.
 4 b. The Division of Health Benefits.
 5 c. The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
 6 Substance Abuse Services.
 7 d. The Division of Social Services.

8 (b) If a juvenile in the custody of a department of social services presents to a hospital
 9 emergency department for mental health treatment, the hospital shall contact the county director
 10 to notify the county director of the juvenile's presentment to the emergency department. The
 11 county director shall contact the appropriate LME/MCO or prepaid health plan within as soon as
 12 practicable and, in any event, no later than 24 hours of the determination that the juvenile should
 13 not remain at the hospital and no appropriate placement is immediately available, start of the
 14 juvenile's stay in the hospital to request an assessment.

15 (c) Consistent with the care coordination responsibilities under G.S. 122C-115.4(b)(5),
 16 the LME/MCO or prepaid health plan must, when applicable or required by their contract with
 17 the Department, arrange for an assessment to be performed by either the juvenile's clinical home
 18 provider; the hospital, if able and willing; or other qualified licensed clinician within five
 19 business days 72 hours following notification under subsection (b) of this section from the county
 20 director. The hospital shall cooperate with the LME/MCO or prepaid health plan to provide
 21 access to the juvenile during the juvenile's stay in the hospital.

22 (d) Based on the findings and recommendations of ~~the assessment,~~ an assessment
 23 conducted as required by this section, all of the following must occur:

- 24 (1) If the comprehensive clinical assessment recommends a traditional foster
 25 home or a Level I group home, the county director shall identify and provide
 26 the placement within five business days. The county department of social
 27 services shall be responsible for transporting the juvenile to the identified
 28 placement within as soon as practicable but no later than five business days.
 29 (2) If the assessment recommends a level of care requiring prior authorization by
 30 the LME/MCO or prepaid health plan, the LME/MCO or prepaid health plan
 31 shall authorize an appropriate level of care and identify appropriate providers
 32 within five business days and assign a care ~~coordinator~~ manager for the
 33 duration that the LME/MCO or prepaid health plan provides services to the
 34 juvenile. Once an appropriate level of care has been authorized and providers
 35 identified, the county director shall place the juvenile in the appropriate
 36 placement within as soon as practicable but no later than five business days.
 37 The county department of social services shall be responsible for transporting
 38 the juvenile to the identified placement.

39 (d1) The hospital shall not release the juvenile unless at least one of the following
 40 conditions exists:

- 41 (1) The juvenile meets hospital discharge criteria.
 42 (2) The placement as recommended by the assessment is available.
 43 (3) The consent of the individual or county director authorized to consent to
 44 treatment pursuant to G.S. 7B-505.1.

45 (e) The county department of social services shall provide ongoing case management,
 46 virtually or in person, to address the juvenile's educational and social needs during the juvenile's
 47 stay in the hospital. The hospital shall cooperate with the county department of social services to
 48 provide access to the juvenile during the juvenile's stay in the hospital.

49 (f) ~~If, on~~ The county director, an LME/MCO, or a prepaid health plan shall notify the
 50 Rapid Response Team of any of the following circumstances:

1 (1) After completion of the assessment, the county director under subdivision
2 (d)(1) of this section or the LME/MCO or prepaid health plan under
3 subdivision (d)(2) of this section is anticipates being unable to identify an
4 appropriate available placement or treatment provider for the juvenile, or if
5 the juvenile.

6 (2) The assessment recommendations differ, the director shall immediately notify
7 the Department of Health and Human Services' Rapid Response Team. differ
8 from the preferences of the individual or county director authorized to consent
9 to treatment pursuant to G.S. 7B-505.1 or from services readily available.

10 (3) There are delays in accessing needed behavioral health assessments.

11 (4) The juvenile has been released from the hospital in violation of subsection
12 (d1) of this section.

13 (f1) Notification provided to the Rapid Response Team by the county director,
14 LME/MCO, or prepaid health plan as required under subsection (f) of this section does not relieve
15 the county director, LME/MCO, prepaid health plan, or any other entity from carrying out the
16 county director's, LME/MCO's, or prepaid health plan's responsibilities to the juvenile.

17 (f2) The county director, pursuant to G.S. 7B-302(a1)(1), is G.S. 7B-302(a1)(1), and the
18 LME/MCO, or the prepaid health plan, are authorized to disclose confidential information to the
19 Rapid Response Team to ensure the juvenile is protected from abuse or neglect and for the
20 provision of protective services to the juvenile. All confidential information disclosed to the
21 Rapid Response Team shall remain confidential, shall not be further redisclosed unless
22 authorized by State or federal law or regulations, and shall not be considered a public record.
23 ~~Notification to the Rapid Response Team does not relieve the director, LME/MCO, prepaid~~
24 ~~health plan, or any other entity from carrying out their responsibilities to the juvenile.~~

25 (g) ~~The Rapid Response Team shall be comprised of representatives of the Department~~
26 ~~of Health and Human Services from the Division of Social Services; the Division of Mental~~
27 ~~Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services; and the Division of Health~~
28 ~~Benefits. Upon receipt of a notification from a director, made in accordance with subsection (f)~~
29 ~~of this section, the Rapid Response Team shall evaluate the information provided and coordinate~~
30 ~~a response to determine if action from the Rapid Response Team is necessary to address the~~
31 ~~immediate needs of the juvenile, which may include any of the following: juvenile. If action is~~
32 ~~necessary, the Rapid Response Team shall develop a plan with the county department of social~~
33 ~~services, LME/MCO, or prepaid health plan regarding the steps needed to meet the treatment~~
34 ~~needs of the juvenile. Any plan shall include the means by which to monitor the implementation~~
35 ~~of the plan.~~

36 (1) ~~Identifying an appropriate level of care for the juvenile.~~

37 (2) ~~Identifying appropriate providers or other placement for the juvenile.~~

38 (3) ~~Making a referral to qualified services providers.~~

39 (4) ~~Developing an action plan to ensure the needs of the juvenile are met.~~

40 (5) ~~Developing a plan to ensure that relevant parties carry out any responsibilities~~
41 ~~to the juvenile.~~

42 (h) Meetings of the Rapid Response Team convened under this section shall be limited
43 to members of the Rapid Response Team and individuals invited to the meeting by the Rapid
44 Response Team, which may include individuals from the relevant county department of social
45 services, LME/MCOs, and prepaid health plans. The meetings of the Rapid Response Team shall
46 not be open to the public. Subsection (f2) of this section shall apply to any information gathered
47 in preparation of, or for use at, the meeting. Information shared at a Rapid Response Team
48 meeting, documents created during the course of a meeting, or documents created during the
49 course of evaluating information and developing a plan in accordance with subsection (g) of this
50 section shall not be public record and shall not be disclosed or redisclosed unless authorized
51 under State or federal law.

1 (i) An LME/MCO or prepaid health plan shall provide a monthly notice to the Division
2 of Social Services of the Department of Health and Human Services that contains all of the
3 following information for the preceding month:

4 (1) The number of notifications the LME/MCO or prepaid health plan has
5 received from the county department of social services regarding the need for
6 an assessment under this section.

7 (2) The length of time to find appropriate placement for a juvenile who has
8 presented at a hospital for mental health treatment.

9 (3) The number and type of recommendations made in accordance with
10 subsection (d) of this section."

11 **SECTION 9G.2A.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

13 **AGENCY REQUESTED CHANGES/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

14 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a1)** Part 2 of Article 4 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes
15 is amended by adding the following new sections to read:

16 **"§ 122C-115.5. Alignment of counties with an area authority.**

17 (a) No county shall withdraw from an area authority nor shall an area authority be
18 dissolved without prior approval of the Secretary.

19 (b) A county that wishes to disengage from one area authority and realign with another
20 area authority operating a Medicaid waiver contract may do so with the approval of the Secretary.
21 The Secretary shall adopt rules to establish a process for county disengagement that shall ensure,
22 at a minimum, the following:

23 (1) Provision of services is not disrupted by the disengagement.

24 (2) The timing of the disengagement is accounted for and does not conflict with
25 setting capitation rates.

26 (3) Adequate notice is provided to the affected counties, the Department of Health
27 and Human Services, and the General Assembly.

28 (4) Provisions exist for the distribution of any real property no longer within the
29 catchment area of the area authority.

30 (c) Area authorities may add one or more additional counties to their existing catchment
31 area upon the adoption of a resolution to that effect by a majority of the members of the area
32 board and the approval of the Secretary.

33 (d) The Secretary shall direct the dissolution of an area authority upon any of the
34 following:

35 (1) The termination of a BH IDD tailored plan contract with an area authority.

36 (2) The Secretary's delivery of a notice of noncompliance to an area authority
37 under G.S. 122C-124.2(c)(2) or G.S. 122C-124.2(d)(4).

38 (3) The Secretary's assumption of full control of all powers of an area authority
39 under G.S. 122C-125.

40 (e) When an area authority is dissolved at the direction of the Secretary, the following
41 shall occur:

42 (1) The Secretary shall deliver a notice of dissolution to the board of county
43 commissioners of each of the counties in the dissolved area authority.

44 (2) An area authority that is dissolved by the Secretary in accordance with the
45 provisions of this section shall be dissolved on a time line established by the
46 Department.

47 (3) The area authority being dissolved shall cooperate with the Secretary in order
48 to ensure the uninterrupted provision of services to Medicaid recipients and
49 the other individuals who received services through the area authority.

- 1 (4) The Secretary shall reassign the counties aligned with the area authority being
2 dissolved to one or more area authorities that are under contract for the
3 operation of a BH IDD tailored plan.
- 4 (5) The Secretary shall reassign the State-funded services contract between the
5 area authority being dissolved and the Division of Mental Health,
6 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services to the area
7 authorities receiving the realigned counties.
- 8 (6) The Secretary shall effectuate and oversee the orderly transfer of all
9 management responsibilities, operations, and contracts of the area authority
10 being dissolved, including the responsibility of paying providers for covered
11 services that are subsequently rendered.
- 12 (7) The Secretary shall arrange for the providers of services to be reimbursed from
13 the remaining fund balance or risk reserve of the area authority being
14 dissolved, or from other funds of the Department if necessary, for proper,
15 authorized, and valid claims for services rendered that were not previously
16 paid by the area authority being dissolved. In the event there are insufficient
17 assets to satisfy the liabilities of the area authority being dissolved, it shall be
18 the responsibility of the Secretary to satisfy the liabilities of the area authority
19 being dissolved.
- 20 (8) Effective until the date that BH IDD tailored plans begin operating, risk
21 reserve funds of the area authority being dissolved may be used only to pay
22 authorized and approved provider claims. Any funds remaining in the risk
23 reserve transferred under this subdivision shall become part of the risk reserve
24 of the area authorities receiving the realigned counties and shall be subject to
25 the same restrictions on the use of the risk reserve applicable to those area
26 authorities.
- 27 (9) The Secretary may assume control, in part or in full, of the financial affairs of
28 the area authority and appoint an administrator to exercise the powers assumed
29 by the Secretary. This assumption of control shall have the effect of divesting
30 the area authority of its authority as to the powers assumed, including service
31 delivery, adoption of budgets, expenditures of money, and all other financial
32 powers conferred on the area authority by law.
- 33 (10) County funding of the area authority shall continue and shall not be reduced
34 as a result of the dissolution. A county shall not withdraw funds previously
35 obligated or appropriated to the area authority.
- 36 (11) Any fund balance or risk reserve available to an area authority at the time of
37 its dissolution that is not utilized to pay liabilities shall be transferred to one
38 or more area authorities contracted to operate the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid
39 Waiver or a BH IDD tailored plan in all or a portion of the catchment area of
40 the dissolved area authority, as directed by the Department in accordance with
41 G.S. 122C-115.6.
- 42 (12) Effective until the date that BH IDD tailored plans begin operating, if the fund
43 balance transferred from the dissolved area authority under subdivision (11)
44 of this subsection is insufficient to constitute fifteen percent (15%) of the
45 anticipated operational expenses arising from assumption of responsibilities
46 from the dissolved area authority, the Secretary shall guarantee the operational
47 reserves for the area authority assuming the responsibilities under the
48 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver until the assuming area authority has
49 reestablished fifteen percent (15%) operational reserves.

50 **"§ 122C-115.6. Transfer of area authority fund balance upon county realignment.**

1 (a) When a county disengages from one area authority and realigns with another area
 2 authority under G.S. 122C-115.5, regardless of whether the realignment was due to reassignment
 3 by the Secretary or another process, a portion of the risk reserve and other funds of the area
 4 authority from which the county is disengaging shall be transferred to the area authority with
 5 which the county is realigning. The amount of risk reserve and other funds to be transferred shall
 6 be determined by the Department in accordance with a formula or formulas developed in
 7 accordance with this section.

8 (b) Any formula developed by the Department under this section shall consider the
 9 stability of both the area authority from which the county is disengaging and the area authority
 10 with which the county is realigning. The formula shall support (i) the ability for each area
 11 authority to carry out its responsibilities under State law, (ii) the successful operation of the
 12 1915(b)/(c) waivers, (iii) the capitated arrangements authorized by G.S. 108D-60(b), and (iv) the
 13 successful operation of BH IDD tailored plans under G.S. 108D-60. The formula shall assure
 14 that the area authority from which the county is disengaging retains sufficient funds to pay any
 15 outstanding liabilities to healthcare providers, staff-related expenses, and other liabilities.

16 (c) The area authority from which the county is disengaging and the area authority with
 17 which the county is realigning shall provide the Department with all financial information
 18 requested by the Department that is necessary to determine the amount of funds to be transferred
 19 using the formula or formulas developed under this section, upon any of the following:

20 (1) The Secretary's approval of a county disengagement under G.S. 122C-115.5.

21 (2) The Secretary's delivery of a notice of dissolution to the area authority under
 22 G.S. 122C-115.5(e)(1).

23 (d) Prior to finalizing any formula developed under this section, the Department shall
 24 post the proposed formula on its website and provide notice of the proposed formula to all area
 25 authorities, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint
 26 Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, and the Fiscal Research
 27 Division. The Department shall accept public comment on the proposed formula. The
 28 Department shall post the final version of the formula on its website.

29 (e) The Department may amend the formula as needed to ensure the requirements of
 30 subsection (b) of this section are met. Prior to finalizing any amended formula developed under
 31 this section, the Department shall post the proposed formula on its website and provide notice of
 32 the proposed formula to all area authorities, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health
 33 and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health
 34 Choice, and the Fiscal Research Division. The Department shall accept public comment on the
 35 proposed formula. The Department shall post the final version of the formula on its website.

36 (f) Beginning July 15, 2023, and quarterly thereafter, the Department shall report to the
 37 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative
 38 Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, and the Fiscal Research Division on
 39 any funds transferred as a result of disengagements during the previous quarter.

40 (g) The development and application of the formula or formulas under this section shall
 41 be exempt from the rulemaking requirements and contested case provisions of Chapter 150B of
 42 the General Statutes, as provided in G.S. 150B-1(d)(33) and G.S. 150B-1(e)(27)."

43 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a2)** G.S. 122C-3 reads as rewritten:

44 "**§ 122C-3. Definitions.**

45 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

46 ...

47 (2b) "~~Behavioral~~ Behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities
 48 tailored plan" plan or "BH-BH IDD tailored plan" has the same meaning as
 49 plan. – As defined in G.S. 108D-1.

50 ...

- 1 (29b) ~~"Prepaid-Prepaid health plan" has the same meaning as plan. – As defined in~~
 2 ~~G.S. 108D-1.~~
- 3 ...
- 4 (35b) Specialty services. – Services that are provided to consumers from
 5 low-incidence populations.
- 6 ~~(35e) State or Local Consumer Advocate.—The individual carrying out the duties~~
 7 ~~of the State or Local Consumer Advocacy Program Office in accordance with~~
 8 ~~Article 1A of this Chapter.~~
- 9 (35d) Standard benefit plan. – As defined in G.S. 108D-1.
- 10 (35e) State Plan. – The State Plan for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,
 11 and Substance Abuse Services.
- 12 ~~(35e)~~(35f) State resources. – State and federal funds and other receipts administered
 13 by the Division.
- 14"

15 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a3)** G.S. 122C-112.1(a)(25) is repealed.

16 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a4)** G.S. 122C-115 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 122C-115. Duties of counties; appropriation and allocation of funds by counties and**
 18 **cities.**

19 (a) A county shall provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse
 20 services in accordance with rules, policies, and guidelines adopted pursuant to statewide
 21 restructuring of the management responsibilities for the delivery of services for individuals with
 22 mental illness, intellectual or other developmental disabilities, and substance abuse disorders
 23 ~~under a 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver through an area authority. Beginning July 1, 2012, the~~
 24 ~~catchment area of an area authority shall contain a minimum population of at least 300,000.~~
 25 ~~Beginning July 1, 2013, the catchment area of an area authority shall contain a minimum~~
 26 ~~population of at least 500,000.~~ To the extent this section conflicts with G.S. 153A-77 or
 27 G.S. 122C-115.1, the provisions of this section control.

28 (a1) ~~Effective July 1, 2012, the Department shall reduce the administrative funding for~~
 29 ~~LMEs that do not comply with the minimum population requirement of 300,000 to a rate~~
 30 ~~consistent with the funding rate provided to LMEs with a population of 300,000.~~

31 (a2) ~~Effective July 1, 2013, the Department shall reassign management responsibilities for~~
 32 ~~Medicaid funds and State funds away from LMEs that are not in compliance with the minimum~~
 33 ~~population requirement of 500,000 to LMEs that are fully compliant with all catchment area~~
 34 ~~requirements, including the minimum population requirements specified in this section.~~

35 (a3) ~~A county that wishes to disengage from a local management entity/managed care~~
 36 ~~organization and realign with another multicounty area authority operating under the 1915(b)/(c)~~
 37 ~~Medicaid Waiver may do so with the approval of the Secretary. The Secretary shall adopt rules~~
 38 ~~to establish a process for county disengagement that shall ensure, at a minimum, the following:~~

- 39 (1) ~~Provision of services is not disrupted by the disengagement.~~
- 40 (2) ~~The disengaging county either is in compliance or plans to merge with an area~~
 41 ~~authority that is in compliance with population requirements provided in~~
 42 ~~G.S. 122C-115(a) of this section.~~
- 43 (3) ~~The timing of the disengagement is accounted for and does not conflict with~~
 44 ~~setting capitation rates.~~
- 45 (4) ~~Adequate notice is provided to the affected counties, the Department of Health~~
 46 ~~and Human Services, and the General Assembly.~~
- 47 (5) ~~Provision for distribution of any real property no longer within the catchment~~
 48 ~~area of the area authority.~~

49 ...

1 ~~(c1) Area authorities may add one or more additional counties to their existing catchment~~
 2 ~~area upon the adoption of a resolution to that effect by a majority of the members of the area~~
 3 ~~board and the approval of the Secretary.~~

4 (d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, counties shall not reduce county
 5 appropriations and expenditures for current operations and ongoing programs and services of
 6 area authorities ~~or county programs~~ because of the availability of State-allocated funds, fees,
 7 capitation amounts, or fund balance to the area ~~authority or county program~~ authority. Counties
 8 may reduce county appropriations by the amount previously appropriated by the county for
 9 one-time, nonrecurring special needs of the area ~~authority or county program~~ authority.

10 "

11 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a5)** G.S. 122C-115.3 is repealed.

12 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a6)** G.S. 122C-124.1 is repealed.

13 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a7)** G.S. 122C-124.2 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 122C-124.2. Actions by the Secretary to ensure effective management of behavioral**
 15 **health services under the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver.**

16 ...

17 (b) The Secretary's certification under subsection (a) of this section shall be in writing
 18 and signed by the Secretary and shall contain a clear and unequivocal statement that the Secretary
 19 has determined the local management entity/managed care organization to be in compliance with
 20 all of the following requirements:

21 (1) The LME/MCO has made adequate provision against the risk of insolvency
 22 ~~and and, in accordance with G.S. 122C-125.3, is either (i) is not required to~~
 23 ~~be under a corrective action plan in accordance with G.S. 122C-125.2 or (ii)~~
 24 ~~is in compliance with a corrective action plan required under~~
 25 ~~G.S. 122C-125.2 plan.~~

26 ...

27 (c) If the Secretary does not provide a local management entity/managed care
 28 organization with the certification of compliance required by this section based upon the
 29 LME/MCO's failure to comply with any of the requirements specified in subdivisions (1) through
 30 (3) of subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall do the following:

31 ...

32 ~~(3) Not later than 10 days after the Secretary's notice of noncompliance is~~
 33 ~~provided to the LME/MCO, assign the Contract of the noncompliant~~
 34 ~~LME/MCO to a compliant LME/MCO.~~

35 ~~(4) Oversee the transfer of the operations and contracts from the noncompliant~~
 36 ~~LME/MCO to the compliant LME/MCO in accordance with the provisions in~~
 37 ~~subsection (e) of this section.~~

38 ~~(5) Direct the dissolution of the LME/MCO in accordance with~~
 39 ~~G.S. 122C-115.5(d).~~

40 (d) If, at any time, in the Secretary's determination, a local management entity/managed
 41 care organization is not in compliance with a requirement of the Contract other than those
 42 specified in subdivisions (1) through (3) of subsection (b) of this section, then the Secretary shall
 43 do all of the following:

44 ...

45 ~~(5) Upon a final determination that an LME/MCO is noncompliant, allow no~~
 46 ~~more than 30 days following the date of notification of the final determination~~
 47 ~~of noncompliance for the noncompliant LME/MCO to complete negotiations~~
 48 ~~for a merger or realignment with a compliant LME/MCO that is satisfactory~~
 49 ~~to the Secretary.~~

50 ~~(6) If the noncompliant LME/MCO does not successfully complete negotiations~~
 51 ~~with a compliant LME/MCO as described in subdivision (5) of this~~

- 1 subsection, assign the Contract of the noncompliant LME/MCO to a
- 2 compliant LME/MCO.
- 3 (7) ~~Oversee the transfer of the operations and contracts from the noncompliant~~
- 4 ~~LME/MCO to the compliant LME/MCO in accordance with the provisions in~~
- 5 ~~subsection (e) of this section.~~
- 6 (8) Upon a final determination that an LME/MCO is noncompliant, direct the
- 7 dissolution of the LME/MCO in accordance with G.S. 122C-115.5(d).
- 8 (e) ~~If the Secretary assigns the Contract of a noncompliant local management~~
- 9 ~~entity/managed care organization to a compliant LME/MCO under subdivision (3) of subsection~~
- 10 ~~(e) of this section, or under subdivision (6) of subsection (d) of this section, the Secretary shall~~
- 11 ~~oversee the orderly transfer of all management responsibilities, operations, and contracts of the~~
- 12 ~~noncompliant LME/MCO to the compliant LME/MCO. The noncompliant LME/MCO shall~~
- 13 ~~cooperate with the Secretary in order to ensure the uninterrupted provision of services to~~
- 14 ~~Medicaid recipients. In making this transfer, the Secretary shall do all of the following:~~
- 15 (1) ~~Arrange for the providers of services to be reimbursed from the remaining~~
- 16 ~~fund balance or risk reserve of the noncompliant LME/MCO, or from other~~
- 17 ~~funds of the Department if necessary, for proper, authorized, and valid claims~~
- 18 ~~for services rendered that were not previously paid by the noncompliant~~
- 19 ~~LME/MCO.~~
- 20 (2) ~~Effectuate an orderly transfer of management responsibilities from the~~
- 21 ~~noncompliant LME/MCO to the compliant LME/MCO, including the~~
- 22 ~~responsibility of paying providers for covered services that are subsequently~~
- 23 ~~rendered.~~
- 24 (3) ~~Oversee the dissolution of the noncompliant LME/MCO, including~~
- 25 ~~transferring to the compliant LME/MCO all assets of the noncompliant~~
- 26 ~~LME/MCO, including any balance remaining in its risk reserve after payments~~
- 27 ~~have been made under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Risk reserve funds~~
- 28 ~~of the noncompliant LME/MCO may be used only to pay authorized and~~
- 29 ~~approved provider claims. Any funds remaining in the risk reserve transferred~~
- 30 ~~under this subdivision shall become part of the compliant LME/MCO's risk~~
- 31 ~~reserve and subject to the same restrictions on the use of the risk reserve~~
- 32 ~~applicable to the compliant LME/MCO. If the risk reserves transferred from~~
- 33 ~~the noncompliant LME/MCO are insufficient, the Secretary shall guarantee~~
- 34 ~~any needed risk reserves for the compliant LME/MCO arising from the~~
- 35 ~~additional risks being assumed by the compliant LME/MCO until the~~
- 36 ~~compliant LME/MCO has established fifteen percent (15%) risk reserves. All~~
- 37 ~~other assets shall be used to satisfy the liabilities of the noncompliant~~
- 38 ~~LME/MCO. In the event there are insufficient assets to satisfy the liabilities~~
- 39 ~~of the noncompliant LME/MCO, it shall be the responsibility of the Secretary~~
- 40 ~~to satisfy the liabilities of the noncompliant LME/MCO.~~
- 41 (4) ~~Following completion of the actions specified in subdivisions (1) through (3)~~
- 42 ~~of this subsection, direct the dissolution of the noncompliant LME/MCO and~~
- 43 ~~deliver a notice of dissolution to the board of county commissioners of each~~
- 44 ~~of the counties in the dissolved LME/MCO. An LME/MCO that is dissolved~~
- 45 ~~by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this section may be~~
- 46 ~~dissolved at any time during the fiscal year.~~
- 47 ...
- 48 (g) As used in this section, the following terms mean:
- 49 ...

1 (2) Contract. – The contract between the Department of Health and Human
2 Services and a local management entity for the operation of the 1915(b)/(c)
3 Medicaid ~~Waiver-waiver or a BH IDD tailored plan.~~"

4 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a8)** G.S. 122C-125 reads as rewritten:

5 "**§ 122C-125. Area Authority ~~financial~~ authority failure; State assumption of financial**
6 **control.**

7 (a) At any time that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services
8 determines that an area authority is in imminent danger of failing ~~financially and of financially,~~
9 ~~failing to provide direct-minimally adequate services to clients, clients in need in a timely manner,~~
10 ~~or failing to execute on priority infrastructure, services, and supports that are needed across the~~
11 ~~State related to mental health, intellectual or other developmental disabilities, and substance use~~
12 ~~disorder,~~ the Secretary, after providing written notification of the Secretary's intent to the area
13 board and after providing the area authority an opportunity to be heard, may assume ~~control of~~
14 ~~the financial affairs~~ control, in part or in full, of the area authority and appoint an administrator
15 to exercise the powers ~~assumed.~~ assumed by the Secretary. This assumption of control shall have
16 the effect of divesting the area authority of its ~~powers~~ authority as to the ~~powers assumed, which~~
17 ~~may include service delivery,~~ adoption of budgets, expenditures of money, and all other financial
18 powers conferred ~~in on~~ the area authority by law.

19 (b) County funding of the area authority shall continue when the ~~State~~ Secretary has
20 assumed control of ~~the financial affairs~~ of the area ~~authority.~~ authority under this section. At no
21 time after the ~~State~~ Secretary has assumed this control shall a county withdraw funds previously
22 obligated or appropriated to the area authority. ~~The Secretary shall adopt rules to define imminent~~
23 ~~danger of failing financially and of failing to provide direct services to clients.~~

24 (c) Upon ~~the Secretary's~~ assumption of financial control, ~~partial control of an area~~
25 ~~authority under this section,~~ the Department shall, in conjunction with the area authority, develop
26 and implement a corrective plan of action and provide notification to the area authority's board
27 of directors of the plan. The Department shall also keep the county board of commissioners and
28 the area authority's board of directors informed of any ongoing concerns or problems with the
29 area authority's finances.

30 (d) Upon the Secretary's assumption of full control of all powers of an area authority
31 under this section, the Secretary shall direct the dissolution of the area authority in accordance
32 with G.S. 122C-115.5(d)(3).

33 (e) The Department shall develop definitions of the following terms used in this section:
34 "imminent danger of failing financially," "failing to provide minimally adequate services to
35 clients in need in a timely manner," and "failing to execute on priority infrastructure, services,
36 and supports that are needed across the State related to mental health, intellectual or other
37 developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder." The Department may amend the
38 definitions developed under this section. Prior to implementing a definition, whether initial or
39 amended, the Department shall do all of the following:

40 (1) Post the proposed definition on its website and provide notice of the proposed
41 definition to all area authorities, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
42 Health and Human Services, and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
43 on Medicaid.

44 (2) Accept public comment on the proposed definition.

45 (3) Post the final version of the definition on its website.

46 (f) The development of definitions under subsection (e) of this section shall be exempt
47 from the rulemaking requirements of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, as provided in
48 G.S. 150B-1(d)(34)."

49 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a9)** G.S. 122C-125.2 is repealed.

50 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a10)** Article 4 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is
51 amended by adding a new section to read:

1 **"§ 122C-125.3. LME/MCO solvency; corrective action plan.**

2 (a) The Department shall establish, in its contracts with LME/MCOs, solvency standards
3 based on industry-standard financial accounting measures, such as the current ratio of assets to
4 liabilities, defensive interval ratio of current assets to average monthly expenditure, capital
5 reserves, and profit and loss. The contracts shall require the development of a corrective action
6 plan when an LME/MCO does not meet the solvency standards specified in the contract.

7 (b) Each LME/MCO shall provide the Department with monthly financial reports
8 containing the data needed to calculate the financial accounting measures and assess the
9 LME/MCO's adherence to the solvency standards established in contract.

10 (c) On a quarterly basis, beginning on April 1, 2024, the Department shall publish to its
11 website a dashboard reporting all of the following information for each LME/MCO for the
12 previous quarter:

13 (1) Each solvency standard applicable to the LME/MCO under its contracts with
14 the Department, including any applicable minimum or maximum threshold.

15 (2) The financial position of the LME/MCO relative to each solvency standard
16 applicable to the LME/MCO under its contracts with the Department.

17 (3) Whether the LME/MCO is under any corrective action plan related to the
18 solvency standards applicable to the LME/MCO under its contracts with the
19 Department, and whether the LME/MCO is in compliance with any such
20 corrective action plan.

21 (d) The Department shall notify the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and
22 Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice,
23 and the Fiscal Research Division when the information required under subsection (c) of this
24 section has been published to the Department's website."

25 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a11)** G.S. 108D-60 is amended by adding a new subsection to
26 read:

27 "(c) Notwithstanding G.S. 108D-40(a)(12) and subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of this
28 section, upon the dissolution of an area authority under G.S. 122C-115.5 and as part of the orderly
29 transfer of operations of the area authority being dissolved, the enrollees of the area authority
30 being dissolved temporarily may be served through one or any combination of the following
31 delivery systems:

32 (1) The fee-for-service program.

33 (2) An arrangement authorized under subsection (b) of this section.

34 (3) A standard benefit plan.

35 (4) Any other system allowed under State law for the delivery of Medicaid
36 services or mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and
37 substance use disorder services."

38 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a12)** G.S. 150B-1(d) is amended by adding two new
39 subdivisions to read:

40 "(33) The Department of Health and Human Services with respect to the
41 development and application of any formula under G.S. 122C-115.6.

42 (34) The Department of Health and Human Services with respect to the
43 development of definitions under G.S. 122C-125(e)."

44 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a13)** G.S. 150B-1(e)(21) reads as rewritten:

45 "(21) The Department of Health and Human Services for actions taken under
46 ~~G.S. 122C-124.2~~, G.S. 122C-124.2 and G.S. 122C-115.5(d)."

47 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a14)** G.S. 150B-1(e) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
48 read:

49 "(27) The Department of Health and Human Services with respect to the
50 development and application of any formula under G.S. 122C-115.6."

51 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a15)** Section 3.5A of S.L. 2021-62 is repealed.

1 **SECTION 9G.7A.(a16)** Section 9D.13(b) of S.L. 2022-74 is repealed.
 2 **SECTION 9G.7A.(b1)** G.S. 122C-102(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision
 3 to read:
 4 "(13) Identification of priority infrastructure, services, and supports that are needed
 5 across the State related to mental health, intellectual or other developmental
 6 disabilities, and substance use disorder."
 7 **SECTION 9G.7A.(b2)** G.S. 122C-112.1(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision
 8 to read:
 9 "(40) Direct and oversee the allocation and use of single-stream funding to support
 10 priority infrastructure, services, and supports, including those identified in the
 11 State Plan under G.S. 122C-102(b)."
 12 **SECTION 9G.7A.(b3)** G.S. 122C-112.1(b) reads as rewritten:
 13 "(b) The Secretary may do the following:
 14 ...
 15 (4) Accept, allocate, and spend any federal funds for mental health, intellectual or
 16 other developmental disabilities, and or substance abuse use disorder activities
 17 that may be made available to the State by the federal ~~government.~~
 18 Government for purposes of funding the priority infrastructure, services, and
 19 supports identified in the State Plan under G.S. 122C-102(b)(13). This
 20 Chapter shall be liberally construed in order that the State and its citizens may
 21 benefit fully from these funds. Any federal funds received shall be deposited
 22 with the Department of State Treasurer and shall be appropriated by the
 23 General Assembly for the mental health, intellectual or other developmental
 24 disabilities, or substance abuse use disorder purposes specified.
 25 (4a) Spend any State funds allocated for mental health, intellectual or other
 26 developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder services and supports
 27 to contract for the provision of priority infrastructure, services, and supports
 28 identified in the State Plan under G.S. 122C-102(b)(13).
 29 "
 30 **SECTION 9G.7A.(b4)** G.S. 122C-117(a)(1) reads as rewritten:
 31 "(1) Engage in comprehensive planning, budgeting, implementing, and monitoring
 32 of community-based mental health, intellectual or other developmental
 33 disabilities, and substance abuse services-use disorder services in coordination
 34 with the Secretary and in accordance with direction from the Secretary
 35 regarding the use or allocation of single-stream funding to support priority
 36 infrastructure, services, and supports identified in the State Plan under
 37 G.S. 122C-102(b)(13)."
 38 **SECTION 9G.7A.(c1)** G.S. 122C-112.1(a)(6) reads as rewritten:
 39 "(6) Establish comprehensive, cohesive oversight and monitoring procedures and
 40 processes to ensure continuous compliance by area authorities, ~~county~~
 41 ~~programs,~~ third-party contractors of area authorities, and all providers of
 42 public services with State and federal policy, law, and standards. The
 43 procedures shall include the development and use of critical performance
 44 measures and report cards for each area ~~authority and county~~
 45 ~~program authority.~~"
 46 **SECTION 9G.7A.(c2)** G.S. 122C-112.1(a)(9) reads as rewritten:
 47 "(9) Provide ongoing and focused technical assistance to area authorities ~~and~~
 48 ~~county programs~~ in the implementation of the LME functions and the
 49 establishment and operation of community-based programs. ~~The technical~~
 50 ~~assistance required under this subdivision includes, but is not limited to, the~~
 51 ~~technical assistance required under G.S. 122C 115.4(d)(2).~~ The Secretary

1 shall include in the State Plan a mechanism for monitoring the Department's
 2 success in implementing this duty and the progress of area authorities ~~and~~
 3 ~~county programs~~ in achieving these functions."

4 **SECTION 9G.7A.(c3)** G.S. 122C-115.4(c) reads as rewritten:

5 "(c) Subject to subsection (b) of this ~~section and section~~, all applicable State and federal
 6 laws and ~~rules~~ rules, and contractual requirements established by the Secretary, an LME may
 7 contract with a public or private entity for the implementation of LME functions designated under
 8 subsection (b) of this section. An LME shall cancel any such contract when directed by the
 9 Secretary under G.S. 122C-142(a)."

10 **SECTION 9G.7A.(c4)** Subsections (d) and (e) of G.S. 122C-115.4 are repealed.

11 **SECTION 9G.7A.(c5)** G.S. 122C-115.4(f)(3) is repealed.

12 **SECTION 9G.7A.(c6)** G.S. 122C-142(a) reads as rewritten:

13 "(a) When ~~the an~~ area authority contracts with persons for the provision of services, it
 14 shall use the standard contract adopted by the Secretary and shall assure that these contracted
 15 services meet the requirements of applicable State ~~statutes and the rules of the Commission and~~
 16 ~~the Secretary. However, an~~ and federal laws and rules. An area authority may amend the contract
 17 to comply with any court-imposed duty or responsibility. An area authority that is operating
 18 under a Medicaid waiver may amend the contract subject to the approval of the Secretary. Terms
 19 of the standard contract shall require the area authority to monitor the contract to assure that State
 20 and federal laws and rules and State statutes are met. It shall also place an obligation upon the
 21 entity providing services to provide to the area authority timely data regarding the clients being
 22 served, the services provided, and the client outcomes. The Secretary may also monitor
 23 contracted services ~~to assure that rules and State statutes are met~~ for compliance with the area
 24 authority's contractual requirements with the Department and State and federal law. If an area
 25 authority's oversight of a contract for services results in noncompliance, the Secretary may direct
 26 the area authority to cancel the contract for services."

27 **SECTION 9G.7A.(c7)** Subsections (c3) and (c6) of this section apply to area
 28 authority contracts with persons for the provision of services entered into on or after the date this
 29 act becomes law.

30 **SECTION 9G.7A.(d1)** G.S. 126-5 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 126-5. Employees subject to Chapter; exemptions.**

32 (a) This Chapter applies to all of the following:

33 (1) All State employees not exempted by this section.

34 (2) All employees of the following local entities:

35 a. ~~Area mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse~~
 36 ~~authorities, except as otherwise provided in Chapter 122C of the~~
 37 ~~General Statutes.~~

38 b. Local social services departments.

39 c. County health departments and district health departments.

40 d. Local emergency management agencies that receive federal
 41 grant-in-aid funds.

42 An employee of a consolidated county human services agency created
 43 pursuant to G.S. 153A-77(b) is not considered an employee of an entity listed
 44 in this subdivision.

45 ...

46 (c1) Except as to Articles 6 and 7 of this Chapter, this Chapter does not apply to any of the
 47 following:

48 ...

49 (39) All employees of area authorities, as defined under G.S. 122C-3.

50"

1 **SECTION 9G.7A.(d2)** Subsection (d1) of this section applies to employees of area
2 mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse authorities, defined as area
3 authorities under G.S. 122C-3, hired after the date this act becomes law.

4 **SECTION 9G.7A.(e)** Except as otherwise provided, this section is effective on the
5 date this act becomes law.

6
7 **APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR SALARIES OF LME/MCO AREA DIRECTORS AND**
8 **EMPLOYEES**

9 **SECTION 9G.7B.(a)** G.S. 122C-112.1(a) reads as rewritten:

10 "(a) The Secretary shall do all of the following:

11 ...

12 (20) Monitor the fiscal and administrative practices of area authorities and county
13 programs to ensure that the programs are accountable to the State for the
14 management and use of federal and State funds allocated for mental health,
15 developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services. The Secretary shall
16 ensure maximum accountability by area authorities and county programs for
17 rate-setting methodologies, reimbursement procedures, billing procedures,
18 provider contracting procedures, record keeping, documentation, and other
19 matters pertaining to financial management and fiscal accountability. The
20 Secretary shall further ensure that the practices are consistent with
21 professionally accepted accounting and management principles.

22 (20a) Review and approve an area director's salary, in accordance with
23 G.S. 122C-121(a1).

24 (20b) Review and approve certain salaries of employees of the area authority, in
25 accordance with G.S. 122C-154.

26 "

27 **SECTION 9G.7B.(b)** G.S. 122C-121(a1) reads as rewritten:

28 "~~(a1) The area board shall establish the area director's salary under Article 3 of Chapter 126~~
29 ~~of the General Statutes. Notwithstanding G.S. 126-9(b), an area director may be paid a salary~~
30 ~~that is in excess of the salary ranges established by the State Human Resources Commission.~~
31 ~~Any salary that is higher than the maximum of the applicable salary range shall be supported by~~
32 ~~documentation of comparable salaries in comparable operations within the region and shall also~~
33 ~~include the specific amount the board proposes to pay the director, subject to approval by the~~
34 ~~Secretary.~~ The area board shall not authorize any salary adjustment ~~that is above the normal~~
35 ~~allowable salary range~~ without obtaining prior approval from ~~the Director of the Office of State~~
36 ~~Human Resources, the Secretary."~~

37 **SECTION 9G.7B.(c)** G.S. 122C-154 reads as rewritten:

38 "**§ 122C-154. Personnel.**

39 (a) For the purpose of personnel administration under this Article, Chapter 126 of the
40 General Statutes applies unless otherwise provided.

41 (b) Employees under the direct supervision of the area director are employees of the area
42 authority. ~~For the purpose of personnel administration, Chapter 126 of the General Statutes~~
43 ~~applies unless otherwise provided in this Article.~~ Employees appointed by the county program
44 director are employees of the county. In a multicounty program, employment of county program
45 staff shall be as agreed upon in the interlocal agreement adopted pursuant to G.S. 122C-115.1.

46 (c) Notwithstanding G.S. 126-9(b), an employee of an area authority may be paid a salary
47 that is in excess of the salary ranges established by the State Human Resources Commission.
48 Any salary that is higher than the maximum of the applicable salary range shall be supported by
49 documentation of comparable salaries in comparable operations within the region and shall also
50 include the specific amount the board proposes to pay the employee. The area board shall not

1 authorize any salary adjustment that is above the normal allowable salary range without obtaining
 2 prior approval from the Director of the Office of State Human Resources.

3 (d) Approval of the Secretary is required for any salary of an area authority employee
 4 that is set at, or increased to, an annual amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or
 5 more."

6 **SECTION 9G.7B.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
 7 any salaries established or adjusted on or after that date.

8
 9 **USE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

10 **SECTION 9G.8.(a)** The following definitions apply in this section:

- 11 (1) Department. – The Department of Health and Human Services.
- 12 (2) Opioid Abatement Fund. – The Fund created by Section 9F.1 of S.L.
 13 2021-180, as amended by Section 9F.1 of S.L. 2022-74.
- 14 (3) Opioid Abatement Reserve. – The Reserve created by Section 9F.1 of S.L.
 15 2021-180, as amended by Section 9F.1 of S.L. 2022-74.

16 **SECTION 9G.8.(b)** The State Controller shall transfer from the Opioid Abatement
 17 Reserve to the Opioid Abatement Fund the sum of nine million one hundred ninety-two thousand
 18 four hundred sixty-one dollars (\$9,192,461) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year
 19 and the sum of nine million nine hundred seventy-eight thousand four hundred sixty-two dollars
 20 (\$9,978,462) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. These funds are appropriated
 21 to be used and allocated as follows:

- 22 (1) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024
 23 fiscal year and five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
 24 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Department of Health and Human Services to
 25 award grants on a competitive basis, based on a process prescribed by the
 26 Department, to nonprofit organizations that have the capacity to provide
 27 evidence-based opioid use disorder treatment to individuals who are
 28 uninsured or underinsured.
- 29 (2) Four million one hundred ninety-two thousand four hundred sixty-one dollars
 30 (\$4,192,461) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and four
 31 million nine hundred seventy-eight thousand four hundred sixty-two dollars
 32 (\$4,978,462) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Board
 33 of Governors of The University of North Carolina to be allocated to the
 34 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the North Carolina
 35 Collaboratory, to be used as follows:
 - 36 a. Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in nonrecurring funds for
 37 the 2023-2024 fiscal year to conduct the study on judicially managed
 38 accountability and recovery courts authorized by Section 8.11 of this
 39 act.
 - 40 b. Three million eight hundred ninety-two thousand four hundred
 41 sixty-one dollars (\$3,892,461) in nonrecurring funds for the
 42 2023-2024 fiscal year and four million nine hundred seventy-eight
 43 thousand four hundred sixty-two dollars (\$4,978,462) in nonrecurring
 44 funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to make grants available on a
 45 competitive basis prescribed by the UNC Collaboratory to each
 46 campus of the constituent institutions of The University of North
 47 Carolina for opioid abatement research and development projects.

48
 49 **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF NEW ELECTRONIC HEALTH**
 50 **RECORDS SYSTEM AT STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS**

1 **SECTION 9G.9.** By December 1, 2023, and by December 1, 2024, the Department
2 of Health and Human Services, Division of State-Operated Healthcare Facilities, shall submit a
3 report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on the status
4 of the following:

- 5 (1) Execution of a contract that provides for full implementation of a new
6 electronic health records system within each of the State psychiatric hospitals
7 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant
8 to G.S. 122C-181.
- 9 (2) Full implementation of a new electronic health records system within each of
10 the State psychiatric hospitals under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Health
11 and Human Services pursuant to G.S. 122C-181.
- 12 (3) Training of the State's psychiatric hospitals' staff on the use of the newly
13 implemented electronic health records system.

14 **PART IX-H. PUBLIC HEALTH**

15 **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS/COMPETITIVE GRANT PROCESS TO** 16 **IMPROVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

17 **SECTION 9H.1.(a)** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and
18 Human Services, Division of Public Health, for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to
19 award competitive grants to local health departments for the improvement of maternal and child
20 health shall be used to continue administering a competitive grant process for local health
21 departments based on maternal and infant health indicators and the county's detailed proposal to
22 invest in evidence-based programs to achieve the following goals:

- 23 (1) Improve North Carolina's birth outcomes.
- 24 (2) Improve the overall health status of children in this State from birth to age 5.
- 25 (3) Lower the State's infant mortality rate.

26 **SECTION 9H.1.(b)** The plan for administering the competitive grant process shall
27 include at least all of the following components:

- 28 (1) A request for application (RFA) process to allow local health departments to
29 apply for and receive State funds on a competitive basis. The Department shall
30 require local health departments to include in the application a plan to evaluate
31 the effectiveness, including measurable impact or outcomes, of the activities,
32 services, and programs for which the funds are being requested.
- 33 (2) A requirement that the Secretary prioritize grant awards to those local health
34 departments that are able to leverage non-State funds in addition to the grant
35 award.
- 36 (3) Ensures that funds received by the Department to implement the plan
37 supplement and do not supplant existing funds for maternal and child health
38 initiatives.
- 39 (4) Allows grants to be awarded to local health departments for up to two years.

40 **SECTION 9H.1.(c)** No later than July 1 of each year, as applicable, the Secretary
41 shall announce the recipients of the competitive grant awards and allocate funds to the grant
42 recipients for the respective grant period. After awards have been granted, the Secretary shall
43 submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on
44 the grant awards that includes at least all of the following:

- 45 (1) The identity and a brief description of each grantee and each program or
46 initiative offered by the grantee.
- 47 (2) The amount of funding awarded to each grantee.
- 48 (3) The number of persons served by each grantee, broken down by program or
49 initiative.

1 **SECTION 9H.1.(d)** No later than February 1 of each fiscal year, each local health
2 department receiving funding pursuant to this section in the respective fiscal year shall submit to
3 the Division of Public Health a written report of all activities funded by State appropriations. The
4 report shall include the following information about the fiscal year preceding the year in which
5 the report is due:

- 6 (1) A description of the types of programs, services, and activities funded by State
7 appropriations.
- 8 (2) Statistical and demographical information on the number of persons served by
9 these programs, services, and activities, including the counties in which
10 services are provided.
- 11 (3) Outcome measures that demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of the
12 programs, services, and activities based on the evaluation protocols developed
13 by the Division, in collaboration with the University of North Carolina
14 Gillings School of Global Public Health, pursuant to Section 12E.11(e) of S.L.
15 2015-241, and reported to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
16 Health and Human Services on April 1, 2016.
- 17 (4) A detailed program budget and list of expenditures, including all positions
18 funded, matching expenditures, and funding sources.

19 20 **REPORT ON PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITHIN AIDS DRUG** 21 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

22 **SECTION 9H.2.** Upon a determination by the Department of Health and Human
23 Services, Division of Public Health, that, in six months or less, it will no longer be feasible to
24 operate the health insurance premium assistance program implemented within the North Carolina
25 AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) on a cost-neutral basis or in a manner that achieves
26 savings to the State, the Department shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight
27 Committee on Health and Human Services notifying the Committee of this determination along
28 with supporting documentation and a proposed course of action with respect to health insurance
29 premium assistance program participants.
30

31 **LIMITATION ON USE OF STATE FUNDS**

32 **SECTION 9H.3.** G.S. 143C-6-5.5 reads as rewritten:

33 **"§ 143C-6-5.5. Limitation on use of State funds for abortions.**

34 (a) No State funds may be used for the performance of abortions or to support the
35 administration of any governmental health plan or government-offered insurance policy offering
36 abortion, except that this prohibition shall not apply where (i) the life of the mother would be
37 endangered if the unborn child were carried to term or (ii) the pregnancy is the result of a rape or
38 incest. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit medical care provided after a
39 spontaneous miscarriage.

40 (b) No State funds may be used by a State agency to renew or extend existing contracts
41 or enter into new contracts for the provision of family planning services, pregnancy prevention
42 activities, or adolescent parenting programs with any provider that performs abortions. Nothing
43 in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a State agency from paying any healthcare
44 provider for services authorized under the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees
45 or the Medicaid program."
46

47 **USE OF JUUL SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

48 **SECTION 9H.4.(a)** There is appropriated from the Youth Electronic Nicotine
49 Dependence Abatement Fund created in Section 9G.10(a) of S.L. 2021-180 to the Department of
50 Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (DPH), the sum of eleven million two
51 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$11,250,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year

1 and the sum of eleven million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$11,250,000) in nonrecurring
2 funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to be allocated and used as follows:

- 3 (1) Up to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) in nonrecurring funds
4 for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to support data
5 monitoring to track tobacco/nicotine use and exposure among youth and
6 young adults and populations at risk; for independent evaluation of the reach,
7 effectiveness, and outcomes of the State's evidence based programs designed
8 to help youth addicted to nicotine through electronic cigarettes and other new
9 and emerging tobacco and nicotine products quit; and to prepare the report
10 required by subsection (c) of this section.
11 (2) The remainder of these allocated funds for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal
12 biennium shall be used to fund evidence-based electronic cigarette and
13 nicotine dependence prevention and cessation activities targeting students in
14 grades four through 12.

15 **SECTION 9H.4.(b)** Funds allocated under subsection (a) of this section shall remain
16 available for expenditure in the amounts and for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this
17 section until expended.

18 **SECTION 9H.4.(c)** Annually on September 1, the Department of Health and Human
19 Services shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services
20 and the Fiscal Research Division on the expenditures made from the Youth Electronic Nicotine
21 Dependence Abatement Fund during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall include at least
22 all of the following:

- 23 (1) An itemized list of expenditures and for each expenditure, an indication of the
24 authority under this section for the expenditure.
25 (2) An evaluation of the reach, effectiveness, and outcomes of each activity
26 funded pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section.
27 (3) An evaluation of the reach, effectiveness, and outcomes of each activity
28 funded by Section 9G.10 of S.L. 2021-180, as amended by Section 9G.3 of
29 S.L. 2022-74.
30

31 INCREASE IN AUTOPSY FEES

32 **SECTION 9H.9.(a)** Effective January 1, 2024, G.S. 130A-389 reads as rewritten:

33 "**§ 130A-389. Autopsies.**

34 (a) ~~If, The Chief Medical Examiner or a competent pathologist designated by the Chief~~
35 ~~Medical Examiner shall perform an autopsy or other study in each of the following cases:~~

- 36 (1) ~~If in the opinion of the medical examiner investigating the case or of the Chief~~
37 ~~Medical Examiner, it is advisable and in the public interest that an autopsy or~~
38 ~~other study be made; or, if made.~~
39 (2) ~~If an autopsy or other study is requested by the district attorney of the county~~
40 ~~or by any superior court judge, an autopsy or other study shall be made by the~~
41 ~~Chief Medical Examiner or by a competent pathologist designated by the~~
42 ~~Chief Medical Examiner-judge.~~

43 A complete autopsy report of findings and interpretations, prepared on forms designated for
44 the purpose, shall be submitted promptly to the Chief Medical Examiner. Subject to the
45 limitations of G.S. 130A-389.1 relating to photographs and video or audio recordings of an
46 autopsy, a copy of the report shall be furnished to any person upon request.

47 (a1) The fee for the autopsy or other study shall be ~~two five~~ thousand eight hundred dollars
48 ~~(\$2,800) (\$5,800)~~ to be paid as follows:

- 49 (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the county in which
50 the deceased resided shall pay a fee of ~~one thousand seven hundred fifty~~
51 ~~dollars (\$1,750) three thousand six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$3,625)~~ and

1 the State shall pay the remaining balance of ~~one thousand fifty dollars~~
2 ~~(\$1,050)~~ two thousand one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$2,175).

- 3 (2) If the death or fatal injury occurred outside the county in which the deceased
4 resided, the State shall pay the entire fee in the amount of ~~two five thousand~~
5 ~~eight hundred dollars (\$2,800)~~ (\$5,800).

6"

7 **SECTION 9H.9.(b)** By October 1, 2024, and biennially thereafter, the Department
8 of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, shall analyze the autopsy fee
9 established by subsection (a1) of G.S. 130A-389, as amended by this act, and report to the Joint
10 Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research
11 Division on the following:

- 12 (1) The results of the analysis and any recommended changes to the fee or how
13 the fee is apportioned between the State and counties.
14 (2) For the preceding biennium, the number of autopsies performed by each
15 autopsy center within the North Carolina medical examiner system and the
16 total amount of fees paid to each autopsy center.

17 18 **CAROLINA PREGNANCY CARE FELLOWSHIP**

19 **SECTION 9H.11.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA
20 Temporary Savings Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public
21 Health, the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal
22 year shall be allocated to Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship (CPCF), a nonprofit corporation,
23 to be used as follows:

- 24 (1) The sum of two million six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,650,000) in
25 nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be used to provide
26 grants for services to pregnancy centers located in this State.
27 (2) The sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
28 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be used to provide the following grants to
29 pregnancy centers located in this State:
30 a. Grants to purchase durable medical equipment.
31 b. Grants to pay for pregnancy care training and training on the use of
32 durable medical equipment.
33 (3) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring
34 funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be used to provide grants to
35 pregnancy centers located in this State to cover the cost of nonreligious,
36 nonsectarian educational training and resources regarding pregnancy.
37 (4) The sum of two million one hundred thousand dollars (\$2,100,000) in
38 nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be allocated to fund
39 operation of the CPCF Circle of Care Program.

40 **SECTION 9H.11.(b)** The CPCF shall establish an application process for the grants
41 authorized by subdivisions (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this section, and any pregnancy center located
42 in this State that applies for these grant funds through the established application process is
43 eligible to receive these grant funds.

44 **SECTION 9H.11.(c)** The CPCF may not use more than ten percent (10%) of the
45 funds allocated by this section for administrative purposes.

46 **SECTION 9H.11.(d)** Funds allocated under this section shall be used for
47 nonsectarian, nonreligious purposes only.

48 **SECTION 9H.11.(e)** By July 1, 2025, the CPCF shall report to the Joint Legislative
49 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division on the
50 use of funds allocated under this section. The report shall include at least the following:

- 1 (1) The identity and a brief description of each grantee and the amount of funding
- 2 awarded to each grantee.
- 3 (2) The number of persons served by each grantee.
- 4 (3) The number of persons served by the Circle of Care Program.
- 5

6 **EXPANSION OF PERMISSIBLE USES FOR NEWBORN SCREENING EQUIPMENT**

7 **REPLACEMENT AND ACQUISITION FUND**

8 **SECTION 9H.14.** G.S. 130A-125(d) reads as rewritten:

9 "(d) The Newborn Screening Equipment Replacement and Acquisition Fund (Fund) is
10 established as a nonreverting fund within the Department. Thirty-one dollars (\$31.00) of each
11 fee collected pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be credited to this Fund and applied
12 to the Newborn Screening Program to be used as directed in this subsection. The Department
13 shall not use monies in this Fund for any purpose other than to ~~purchase or replace~~ purchase,
14 replace, maintain, or support laboratory instruments, equipment, and information technology
15 systems used in the Newborn Screening Program. The Department shall notify and consult with
16 the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations whenever the balance in the Fund
17 exceeds the following threshold: the sum of (i) the actual cost of new equipment necessary to
18 incorporate conditions listed on the RUSP into the Newborn Screening Program and (ii) one
19 hundred percent (100%) of the replacement value of existing equipment used in the Newborn
20 Screening Program. Any monies in the Fund in excess of this threshold shall be available for
21 expenditure only upon an act of appropriation by the General Assembly."
22

23 **PART IX-I. SERVICES FOR THE BLIND/DEAF/HARD OF HEARING [RESERVED]**

24 **PART IX-J. SOCIAL SERVICES**

25 **TANF BENEFIT IMPLEMENTATION**

26 **SECTION 9J.1.(a)** The General Assembly approves the plan titled "North Carolina
27 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families State Plan FY 2022-2025," prepared by the
28 Department of Health and Human Services and presented to the General Assembly. The North
29 Carolina Temporary Assistance for Needy Families State Plan covers the period of October 1,
30 2022, through September 30, 2025. The Department shall submit the State Plan, as revised in
31 accordance with subsection (b) of this section, to the United States Department of Health and
32 Human Services.
33

34 **SECTION 9J.1.(b)** The counties approved as Electing Counties in the North
35 Carolina Temporary Assistance for Needy Families State Plan FY 2022-2025, as approved by
36 this section, are Beaufort, Caldwell, Catawba, Lenoir, Lincoln, Macon, and Wilson.
37

38 **SECTION 9J.1.(c)** Counties that submitted the letter of intent to remain as an
39 Electing County or to be redesignated as an Electing County and the accompanying county plan
40 for years 2022 through 2025, pursuant to G.S. 108A-27(e), shall operate under the Electing
41 County budget requirements effective July 1, 2022. For programmatic purposes, all counties
42 referred to in this subsection shall remain under their current county designation through
43 September 30, 2025.
44

45 **SECTION 9J.1.(d)** For each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, Electing
46 Counties shall be held harmless to their Work First Family Assistance allocations for the
47 2022-2023 fiscal year, provided that remaining funds allocated for Work First Family Assistance
48 and Work First Diversion Assistance are sufficient for payments made by the Department on
49 behalf of Standard Counties pursuant to G.S. 108A-27.11(b).
50

51 **SECTION 9J.1.(e)** In the event that departmental projections of Work First Family
Assistance and Work First Diversion Assistance for the 2023-2024 fiscal year or the 2024-2025
fiscal year indicate that remaining funds are insufficient for Work First Family Assistance and

1 Work First Diversion Assistance payments to be made on behalf of Standard Counties, the
2 Department is authorized to deallocate funds, of those allocated to Electing Counties for Work
3 First Family Assistance in excess of the sums set forth in G.S. 108A-27.11, up to the requisite
4 amount for payments in Standard Counties. Prior to deallocation, the Department shall obtain
5 approval by the Office of State Budget and Management. If the Department adjusts the allocation
6 set forth in subsection (d) of this section, then a report shall be made to the Joint Legislative
7 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division.

9 **INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES FUNDING, PERFORMANCE** 10 **ENHANCEMENTS, AND REPORT**

11 **SECTION 9J.2.(a)** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 143B-150.6, the
12 Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) Program shall provide intensive services to
13 children and families in cases of abuse, neglect, and dependency where a child is at imminent
14 risk of removal from the home and to children and families in cases of abuse where a child is not
15 at imminent risk of removal. The Program shall be implemented statewide on a regional basis.
16 The IFPS shall ensure the application of standardized assessment criteria for determining
17 imminent risk and clear criteria for determining out-of-home placement.

18 **SECTION 9J.2.(b)** The Department of Health and Human Services shall require that
19 any program or entity that receives State, federal, or other funding for the purpose of IFPS shall
20 provide information and data that allows for the following:

- 21 (1) An established follow-up system with a minimum of six months of follow-up
22 services.
- 23 (2) Detailed information on the specific interventions applied, including
24 utilization indicators and performance measurement.
- 25 (3) Cost-benefit data.
- 26 (4) Data on long-term benefits associated with IFPS. This data shall be obtained
27 by tracking families through the intervention process.
- 28 (5) The number of families remaining intact and the associated interventions
29 while in IFPS and 12 months thereafter.
- 30 (6) The number and percentage, by race, of children who received IFPS compared
31 to the ratio of their distribution in the general population involved with Child
32 Protective Services.

33 **SECTION 9J.2.(c)** The Department shall continue implementing a
34 performance-based funding protocol and shall only provide funding to those programs and
35 entities providing the required information specified in subsection (b) of this section. The amount
36 of funding shall be based on the individual performance of each program.

37 **SECTION 9J.2.(d)** The Department shall submit an annual report to the Joint
38 Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research
39 Division by December 1 of each year that provides the information and data collected pursuant
40 to subsection (b) of this section.

41 **CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS**

42 **SECTION 9J.3.** Until the Social Services Commission adopts rules setting
43 standardized rates for child caring institutions as authorized under G.S. 143B-153(8), the
44 maximum reimbursement for child caring institutions shall not exceed the rate established for the
45 specific child caring institution by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the
46 Controller. In determining the maximum reimbursement, the State shall include county and IV-E
47 reimbursements.
48

49 **USE FOSTER CARE BUDGET FOR GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

1 **SECTION 9J.4.** Of the funds available for the provision of foster care services, the
2 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, may continue to provide
3 for the financial support of children who are deemed to be (i) in a permanent family placement
4 setting, (ii) eligible for legal guardianship, and (iii) otherwise unlikely to receive permanency.
5 No additional expenses shall be incurred beyond the funds budgeted for foster care for the
6 Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP). The Guardianship Assistance Program shall include
7 provisions for extending guardianship services for individuals and youth who exited foster care
8 through the Guardianship Assistance Program after 14 years of age or who have attained the age
9 of 18 years and opt to continue to receive guardianship services until reaching 21 years of age if
10 the individual is (i) completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent
11 credential, (ii) enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education, (iii)
12 participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment,
13 (iv) employed for at least 80 hours per month, or (v) incapable of completing the educational or
14 employment requirements of this section due to a medical condition or disability. The
15 Guardianship Assistance Program rates shall reimburse the legal guardian for room and board
16 and be set at the same rate as the foster care room and board rates in accordance with rates
17 established under G.S. 108A-49.1.

18 **CHILD WELFARE POSTSECONDARY SUPPORT PROGRAM (NC REACH)**

19 **SECTION 9J.5.(a)** Funds appropriated in this act from the General Fund to the
20 Department of Health and Human Services for the child welfare postsecondary support program
21 shall be used to continue providing assistance with the "cost of attendance" as that term is defined
22 in 20 U.S.C. § 1087*ll* for the educational needs of foster youth aging out of the foster care system,
23 youth who exit foster care to a permanent home through the Guardianship Assistance Program
24 (GAP), or special needs children adopted from foster care after age 12. These funds shall be
25 allocated by the State Education Assistance Authority.

26 **SECTION 9J.5.(b)** Of the funds appropriated in this act from the General Fund to
27 the Department of Health and Human Services, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for
28 each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be allocated to the North Carolina State
29 Education Assistance Authority (SEAA). The SEAA shall use these funds only to perform
30 administrative functions necessary to manage and distribute scholarship funds under the child
31 welfare postsecondary support program.

32 **SECTION 9J.5.(c)** Of the funds appropriated in this act from the General Fund to
33 the Department of Health and Human Services, the sum of three hundred thirty-nine thousand
34 four hundred ninety-three dollars (\$339,493) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall
35 be used to contract with an entity to administer the child welfare postsecondary support program
36 described under subsection (a) of this section, which administration shall include the performance
37 of case management services.

38 **SECTION 9J.5.(d)** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and
39 Human Services for the child welfare postsecondary support program shall be used only for
40 students attending public institutions of higher education in this State.

41 **FEDERAL CHILD SUPPORT INCENTIVE PAYMENTS**

42 **SECTION 9J.6.(a)** Centralized Services. – The North Carolina Child Support
43 Services Section (NCCSS) of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social
44 Services, shall retain up to fifteen percent (15%) of the annual federal incentive payments it
45 receives from the federal government to enhance centralized child support services. To
46 accomplish this requirement, NCCSS shall do the following:
47

- 48 (1) In consultation with representatives from county child support services
49 programs, identify how federal incentive funding could improve centralized
50 services.
51

1 (2) Use federal incentive funds to improve the effectiveness of the State's
2 centralized child support services by supplementing and not supplanting State
3 expenditures for those services.

4 (3) Continue to develop and implement rules that explain the State process for
5 calculating and distributing federal incentive funding to county child support
6 services programs.

7 **SECTION 9J.6.(b)** County Child Support Services Programs. – NCCSS shall
8 allocate no less than eighty-five percent (85%) of the annual federal incentive payments it
9 receives from the federal government to county child support services programs to improve
10 effectiveness and efficiency using the federal performance measures. To that end, NCCSS shall
11 do the following:

12 (1) In consultation with representatives from county child support services
13 programs, examine the current methodology for distributing federal incentive
14 funding to the county programs and determine whether an alternative formula
15 would be appropriate. NCCSS shall use its current formula for distributing
16 federal incentive funding until an alternative formula is adopted.

17 (2) Upon adopting an alternative formula, develop a process to phase in the
18 alternative formula for distributing federal incentive funding over a four-year
19 period.

20 **SECTION 9J.6.(c)** Reporting by County Child Support Services Programs. –
21 NCCSS shall continue implementing guidelines that identify appropriate uses for federal
22 incentive funding. To ensure those guidelines are properly followed, NCCSS shall require county
23 child support services programs to comply with each of the following:

24 (1) Submit an annual plan describing how federal incentive funding would
25 improve program effectiveness and efficiency as a condition of receiving
26 federal incentive funding.

27 (2) Report annually on the following: (i) how federal incentive funding has
28 improved program effectiveness and efficiency and been reinvested into their
29 programs, (ii) provide documentation that the funds were spent according to
30 their annual plans, and (iii) explain any deviations from their plans.

31 **SECTION 9J.6.(d)** Reporting by NCCSS. – NCCSS shall submit a report on federal
32 child support incentive funding to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and
33 Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by November 1 of each year. The report shall
34 describe how federal incentive funds enhanced centralized child support services to benefit
35 county child support services programs and improved the effectiveness and efficiency of county
36 child support services programs. The report shall further include any changes to the State process
37 that NCCSS used in calculating and distributing federal incentive funding to county child support
38 services programs and any recommendations for further changes.

39 **SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION/FOSTER CARE YOUTH**

40 **SECTION 9J.7.** The Foster Care Transitional Living Initiative Fund shall continue
41 to fund and support transitional living services that demonstrate positive outcomes for youth,
42 attract significant private sector funding, and lead to the development of evidence-based
43 programs to serve the at-risk population described in this section. The Fund shall continue to
44 support a demonstration project with services provided by Youth Villages to (i) improve
45 outcomes for youth ages 17-21 years who transition from foster care through implementation of
46 outcome-based Transitional Living Services, (ii) identify cost-savings in social services and
47 juvenile and adult correction services associated with the provision of Transitional Living
48 Services to youth aging out of foster care, and (iii) take necessary steps to establish an
49 evidence-based transitional living program available to all youth aging out of foster care. In
50

1 continuing to implement these goals, the Foster Care Transitional Living Initiative Fund shall
2 support the following strategies:

- 3 (1) Transitional Living Services, which is an outcome-based program that follows
4 the Youth Villages Transitional Living Model. Outcomes on more than 7,000
5 participants have been tracked since the program's inception. The program has
6 been evaluated through an independent randomized controlled trial. Results
7 indicate that the Youth Villages Transitional Living Model had positive
8 impacts in a variety of areas, including housing stability, earnings, economic
9 hardship, mental health, and intimate partner violence in comparison to the
10 control population.
- 11 (2) Public-Private Partnership, which is a commitment by private-sector funding
12 partners to match at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the funds appropriated
13 to the Foster Care Transitional Living Initiative Fund for the 2023-2025 fiscal
14 biennium for the purposes of providing Transitional Living Services through
15 the Youth Villages Transitional Living Model to youth aging out of foster
16 care.
- 17 (3) Impact Measurement and Evaluation, which are services funded through
18 private partners to provide independent measurement and evaluation of the
19 impact the Youth Villages Transitional Living Model has on the youth served,
20 the foster care system, and on other programs and services provided by the
21 State which are utilized by former foster care youth.
- 22 (4) Advancement of Evidence-Based Process, which is the implementation and
23 ongoing evaluation of the Youth Villages Transitional Living Model for the
24 purposes of establishing the first evidence-based transitional living program
25 in the nation. To establish the evidence-based program, additional randomized
26 controlled trials may be conducted to advance the model.

28 PERMANENCY INNOVATION INITIATIVE/CODIFY SUPPLEMENTATION OF 29 FEDERAL FUNDS REQUIREMENT

30 **SECTION 9J.8.** G.S. 131D-10.9B is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31 "(b1) State funds provided for the Permanency Innovation Initiative Fund shall be used to
32 supplement, not supplant, all available federal matching funds."

34 REPORT ON CERTAIN SNAP AND TANF EXPENDITURES

35 **SECTION 9J.9.(a)** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and
36 Human Services, Division of Social Services (Division), for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal
37 biennium for a report on certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and
38 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) expenditures shall be allocated for vendor
39 costs to generate the data regarding expenditures of those programs. The vendor shall generate
40 data to be submitted to the Division that includes, at a minimum, each of the following:

- 41 (1) The dollar amount and number of transactions accessed or expended
42 out-of-state, by state, for both SNAP benefits and TANF benefits.
- 43 (2) The amount of benefits expended out-of-state, by state, from active cases for
44 both SNAP and TANF.
- 45 (3) The dollar amount and number of transactions of benefits accessed or
46 expended in this State, by types of retailers or institutions, for both SNAP and
47 TANF.

48 **SECTION 9J.9.(b)** Upon receiving the expenditures data for SNAP and TANF from
49 the vendor, the Division shall evaluate the data. After evaluating the expenditures data, the
50 Division shall submit a report on its analysis of the data by June 30 and December 31 of each
51 year to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal

1 Research Division. The Division shall post its report required by this subsection on its website
2 and otherwise make the data available by June 30 and December 31 of each year. In the first
3 report required by this section, the Division shall report how this data is used to investigate fraud
4 and abuse in both SNAP and TANF. The Division shall also report on other types of data and
5 how that data is utilized in the detection of fraud and abuse.

6 **SECTION 9J.9.(c)** The Division shall maintain the confidentiality of information
7 not public under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. The Division shall properly redact any
8 information subject to reporting under this section to prevent identification of individual
9 recipients of SNAP or TANF benefits.

10 11 **FOSTER CARE TRAUMA-INFORMED ASSESSMENT**

12 **SECTION 9J.12.(a)** Appropriation; Purpose. – Of the funds appropriated in this act
13 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (Division), the
14 sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024
15 fiscal year shall be used for the development of a foster care trauma-informed, standardized
16 assessment. The Division shall develop the assessment in partnership with the divisions,
17 individuals, agencies, and organizations set forth in subsection (b) of this section. The purpose
18 of the assessment is to assist children (i) who are at risk of entry into foster care or currently in
19 foster care and have experienced trauma warranting the involvement of the Division of Social
20 Services (Division) and other child welfare agencies and (ii) who, as a result of the trauma, are
21 at a higher risk of needing behavioral health or intellectual or developmental disability services.

22 **SECTION 9J.12.(b)** Membership. – The partnership developing the
23 trauma-informed, standardized assessment shall consist of all of the following members:

- 24 (1) Representatives from all of the following divisions of the Department of
25 Health and Human Services: the Division of Social Services, the Division of
26 Health Benefits, the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,
27 and Substance Abuse Services, and the Division of Family and Child
28 Well-Being.
- 29 (2) Prepaid health plans, as defined in G.S. 108D-1, and primary care case
30 management entities, as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.2, that serve children at
31 risk of entry into foster care and children who are currently in foster care.
- 32 (3) Representatives from county departments of social services.
- 33 (4) Benchmarks, a nonprofit corporation.
- 34 (5) Individuals with lived experiences.
- 35 (6) Others identified by the partnership based upon areas of expertise.

36 **SECTION 9J.12.(c)** Plan Development. – In developing the trauma-informed,
37 standardized assessment, the partnership shall develop a rollout plan with a goal of implementing
38 the trauma-informed, standardized assessment statewide in all 100 counties. The rollout plan
39 shall include all of the following:

- 40 (1) The development of the trauma-informed, standardized assessment template
41 by December 31, 2023.
- 42 (2) The finalized trauma-informed, standardized assessment template by June 30,
43 2024, including the standardized training curriculum, methodology for
44 training, the selection of a vendor to manage and conduct the training and
45 determine the process for the statewide rollout, and coordination with tribal
46 jurisdictions.
- 47 (3) The phased-in approach of the trauma-informed, standardized assessment
48 beginning on July 1, 2024, and operating statewide by June 30, 2025.
- 49 (4) The establishment of a base rate for the trauma-informed, standardized
50 assessment that supports the oversight, training, and monitoring of the fidelity
51 to the trauma-informed, standardized assessment.

- 1 (5) The establishment of a standardized workflow of notifications to the payers
2 and child welfare agencies, including the following recommended service
3 processes:
4 a. Time lines for recommended access and implementation of services
5 from date of referral.
6 b. Network and provider capacity to meet expected time lines. In the
7 event the behavioral health service provision is in a region served by
8 a BH IDD tailored plan or in an LME/MCO catchment area that has a
9 gap in provider capacity to meet the recommended time lines, the
10 network shall be open to providers for additional provider enrollment.
- 11 (6) The identification of core outcomes to measure the success of the project and
12 impact of youth receiving the trauma-informed, standardized assessments in
13 a timely manner by a trained workforce.
- 14 (7) The establishment of a statewide implementation training plan that includes
15 oversight of fidelity to the trauma-informed, standardized assessment for staff
16 conducting the assessment within specified time frames. Medicaid managed
17 care plans shall be required to open their provider networks to obtain the
18 necessary number of trauma-informed providers if the existing network
19 cannot meet the needs of the community. The training plan shall be enacted
20 and implemented within the same time lines established with the rollout
21 schedule.

22 **SECTION 9J.12.(d)** Guidelines. – In developing the trauma-informed, standardized
23 assessment and the rollout plan, the Department of Health and Human Services shall ensure the
24 trauma-informed, standardized assessment does, at a minimum, all of the following:

- 25 (1) That juveniles between the ages of 4 and 17 being placed into foster care
26 receive a trauma-informed, standardized assessment within 10 working days
27 of their referral.
- 28 (2) That each juvenile who is included in any Medicaid children and families
29 specialty plan, regardless of their type of placement, receives a
30 trauma-informed, standardized assessment.
- 31 (3) That each trauma-informed, standardized assessment may be administered in
32 a face-to-face or telehealth encounter.
- 33 (4) That the county department of social services makes the referral for a
34 trauma-informed, standardized assessment within five working days of a
35 determination of abuse or neglect of the juvenile in accordance with
36 G.S. 7B-302.
- 37 (5) After obtaining parental consent, that a juvenile is able to receive a
38 trauma-informed, standardized assessment if the county department of social
39 services makes the determination that the juvenile is at imminent risk for entry
40 into foster care.
- 41 (6) Allows for individuals between the ages of 18 and 21 to receive an assessment,
42 if necessary.
- 43 (7) Provides an evidence-informed and standardized template and content for the
44 assessment.
- 45 (8) In the event the juvenile has an assigned care manager under the Medicaid
46 program, that the responsible care management entity is notified of the referral
47 for the assessment and to whom.

48 **SECTION 9J.12.(e)** Implementation Requirements. – The Department of Health and
49 Human Services shall also do all of the following in implementing the trauma-informed,
50 standardized assessment and the rollout plan:

- 1 (1) Leverage the expertise and lessons learned from the entities included in the
2 partnership who have successfully implemented trauma-informed,
3 standardized assessments and training venues.
- 4 (2) Complete any required documentation and, as applicable, leverage all
5 available federal revenues for such activities, including opioid settlements,
6 Medicaid, federal block grant funds, and social services or behavioral plans
7 or grants.
- 8 (3) Amend any existing contracts between the Department and entities who have
9 the expertise to manage the trauma-informed, standardized assessment and the
10 rollout plan to include the creation of a training plan and requirements to
11 monitor implementation of the assessment and rollout plan to ensure the
12 fidelity of the service and delivery are maintained.
- 13 (4) Create a Division of Social Services Statewide Dashboard representing the
14 status of the trauma-informed, standardized assessment implementation and
15 the rollout plan, updated monthly, that includes all of the following:
- 16 a. Referrals.
- 17 b. Case management.
- 18 c. Assessments.
- 19 d. Lag between referrals, assessments, and service initiation.
- 20 e. Youth personal outcomes, not based on process, but instead focused
21 on supporting permanency.
- 22 f. Any other elements identified by the partnership.
- 23

24 TRANSPORTATION OF HIGH-RISK JUVENILES

25 SECTION 9J.13. Article 9 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes is amended by
26 adding a new section to read:

27 "§ 7B-905.2. Transportation of high-risk juveniles.

28 (a) The director of a county department of social services who has invoked the
29 jurisdiction of the court under this Article, and who is serving as custodian over a juvenile, is
30 authorized to make a written request to a high-risk juvenile transporter to transport a high-risk
31 juvenile upon determining assistance with placement responsibilities for the juvenile is
32 necessary. If a high-risk juvenile transporter agrees to provide transportation pursuant to this
33 section, transportation shall be provided in the county in which the juvenile resides but is not
34 limited to transportation within that county. For purposes of this section, the following definitions
35 shall apply:

- 36 (1) High-risk juvenile. – A juvenile who is under 18 years of age who has been
37 abused or neglected, who has serious emotional, mental, or behavioral
38 disturbances that pose a risk of harm to self or others, and who resides outside
39 of a residential placement due to the serious emotional, mental, or behavioral
40 disturbances.
- 41 (2) High-risk juvenile transporter. – A law enforcement agency, the Division of
42 Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, or the Department of
43 Adult Correction and includes the designated staff of those agencies.

44 (b) In providing transportation as required by this section, a high-risk juvenile transporter
45 may use reasonable force to restrain the high-risk juvenile if it appears necessary to protect the
46 high-risk juvenile transporter or other individuals. Any use of restraints shall be as reasonably
47 determined by the high-risk juvenile transporter to be necessary under the circumstances for the
48 safety of the high-risk juvenile, the high-risk juvenile transporter, or other persons.

49 (c) No high-risk juvenile transporter providing transportation of a high-risk juvenile may
50 be held criminally or civilly liable for assault, false imprisonment, or other torts or crimes on
51 account of reasonable measures taken under the authority of this Article. Additionally, a high-risk

1 juvenile transporter is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be
2 incurred or imposed as a result of any omission or action taken pursuant to the requirements of
3 this section, provided the high-risk juvenile transporter was acting in good faith. The immunity
4 established by this subsection does not extend to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional
5 wrongdoing that would otherwise be actionable.

6 (d) The director of the county department of social services may enter into a
7 "transportation agreement" with a high-risk juvenile transporter to establish requirements,
8 procedures, and guidelines for transporting high-risk juveniles. The cost and expenses of
9 transporting a high-risk juvenile pursuant to this section are the responsibility of the county
10 department of social services having custody of the high-risk juvenile."

11 **PART IX-K. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES [RESERVED]**

12 **PART IX-L. HHS MISCELLANEOUS**

13 **PROHIBITION ON PASSIVE INCOME FROM SUPERVISION AGREEMENTS AND** 14 **COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PHYSICIANS AND** 15 **CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIVES AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS**

16 **SECTION 9L.2.(a)** G.S. 90-18.2 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 90-18.2. Limitations on nurse practitioners.**

18 ...

19 (g) Neither a primary supervising physician nor a backup supervising physician, as those
20 terms are defined in 21 NCAC 36 .0801, shall require payment or be paid for the performance of
21 any activity in accordance with a collaborative practice agreement, as defined in 21 NCAC 32M
22 .0101, with a nurse practitioner, including supervision, as defined in 21 NCAC 36 .0801, and any
23 activity under 21 NCAC 36 .0810 or 21 NCAC 32M .0110.

24 (h) A physician violating subsection (g) of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2
25 misdemeanor. A physician violating subsection (g) of this section shall also be subject to a fine
26 not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the first violation or five thousand dollars
27 (\$5,000) for a second or subsequent violation. A violation of subsection (g) of this section shall
28 be considered unprofessional conduct under this Article and shall be grounds for discipline under
29 G.S. 90-14(a)(6)."

30 **SECTION 9L.2.(b)** G.S. 90-178.3 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 90-178.3. Regulation of midwifery.**

32 ...

33 (d) Neither a primary supervising physician nor a backup supervising physician, as those
34 terms are defined in 21 NCAC 36 .0801, shall require payment or be paid for the performance of
35 any activity in accordance with a supervision agreement, as described in 21 NCAC 33 .0104,
36 with a certified nurse midwife, including supervision, as defined in 21 NCAC 36 .0801, and any
37 activity under 21 NCAC 33 .0104.

38 (e) A physician violating subsection (d) of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2
39 misdemeanor. A physician violating subsection (d) of this section shall also be subject to a fine
40 not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the first violation or five thousand dollars
41 (\$5,000) for a second or subsequent violation. A violation of subsection (d) of this section shall
42 be considered unprofessional conduct as defined in G.S. 90-14(a) and shall be grounds for
43 discipline by the North Carolina Medical Board."

44 **SECTION 9L.2.(c)** This section applies to collaborative practice agreements under
45 21 NCAC 36 .0810 and 21 NCAC 32M .0110 and supervision agreements under 21 NCAC 33
46 .0104 entered into, renewed, re-signed, or amended on or after the date this section becomes law.

47 **SECTION 9L.2.(d)** The North Carolina Medical Board and the North Carolina
48 Board of Nursing shall adopt temporary rules to implement the provisions of this act. These
49
50
51

1 temporary rules shall remain in effect until permanent rules that replace the temporary rules
2 become effective.

3 **SECTION 9L.2.(e)** Subsections (a) through (c) of this section become effective
4 October 1, 2023, and apply to acts occurring on or after that date. The remainder of this section
5 is effective when it becomes law.

6 7 **ANESTHESIA CARE/TEFRA COMPLIANCE**

8 **SECTION 9L.3.(a)** Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by
9 adding a new section to read:

10 **"§ 90-18.8. Anesthesiologist TEFRA compliance.**

11 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions shall apply in this section:

12 (1) Anesthesia care. – The performance of activities by a certified registered nurse
13 anesthetist under 21 NCAC 36 .0226.

14 (2) Anesthesiologist. – A licensed physician who has successfully completed an
15 anesthesiology training program approved by the Accreditation Committee on
16 Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association or who
17 is credentialed to practice anesthesiology by a hospital or an ambulatory
18 surgical facility.

19 (3) Certified registered nurse anesthetist. – A licensed registered nurse who
20 completes a program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse
21 Anesthesia Educational Programs, is credentialed as a certified registered
22 nurse anesthetist by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists, and
23 who maintains recertification through the Council on Recertification of Nurse
24 Anesthetists and performs nurse anesthesia activities in collaboration with a
25 physician, dentist, podiatrist, or other lawfully qualified health care provider.
26 Nurse anesthesia activities do not constitute the practice of medicine.

27 (4) Medical direction. – The direction of anesthesia care by an anesthesiologist to
28 up to four certified registered nurse anesthetists performing concurrent cases.

29 (5) Supervision. – Overseeing the activities of, and accepting responsibility for,
30 the anesthesia services rendered by a certified registered nurse anesthetist for
31 purposes of reimbursement and not as a standard of care.

32 (6) TEFRA. – The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, Public Law
33 97-248.

34 (b) Compliance. – Consistent with TEFRA, an anesthesiologist supervising a certified
35 registered nurse anesthetist performing anesthesia care must comply with all of the following
36 requirements in order to bill any third-party payor for medical direction services:

37 (1) Perform a pre-anesthetic examination and evaluation and document it in the
38 medical record.

39 (2) Prescribe the anesthesia plan.

40 (3) Personally participate in and document the most demanding procedures in the
41 anesthesia plan, including induction and emergence, if applicable.

42 (4) Ensure that any procedures in the anesthesia plan that the anesthesiologist
43 does not perform are performed by a certified nurse anesthetist or
44 anesthesiologist assistant, as appropriate.

45 (5) Monitor the course of anesthesia administration at frequent intervals and
46 document that they were present during some portion of the anesthesia
47 monitoring.

48 (6) Remain physically present and available for immediate diagnosis and
49 treatment of emergencies."

50 **SECTION 9L.3.(b)** Article 3 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by
51 adding a new section to read:

"§ 58-3-301. Medical direction of nurse anesthetists.

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Anesthesia care. – The performance of activities by a certified registered nurse anesthetist under 21 NCAC 36 .0226.
- (2) Anesthesiologist. – A licensed physician who has successfully completed an anesthesiology training program approved by the Accreditation Committee on Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association or who is credentialed to practice anesthesiology by a hospital or an ambulatory surgical facility.
- (3) Certified registered nurse anesthetist. – A licensed registered nurse who completes a program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, is credentialed as a certified registered nurse anesthetist by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists, and who maintains recertification through the Council on Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists and performs nurse anesthesia activities in collaboration with a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or other lawfully qualified health care provider. Nurse anesthesia activities do not constitute the practice of medicine.
- (4) Medical direction. – The direction of anesthesia care by an anesthesiologist to up to four certified registered nurse anesthetists performing concurrent cases.
- (5) Supervision. – Overseeing the activities of, and accepting responsibility for, the anesthesia services rendered by a certified registered nurse anesthetist for purposes of reimbursement and not as a standard of care.
- (6) TEFRA. – The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, Public Law 97-248.

(b) An insurer offering a health benefit plan in this State shall reimburse claims for medical direction of a nurse anesthetist at fifty percent (50%) of the rate of reimbursement the anesthesiologist would have received for services if the services had been performed without the nurse anesthetist.

(c) Consistent with TEFRA, an insurer offering a health benefit plan in this State shall require that any anesthesiologist supervising a certified registered nurse anesthetist performing anesthesia care comply with all of the following requirements in order for a claim for medical direction services to be payable under that health benefit plan:

- (1) Perform a pre-anesthetic examination and evaluation and document it in the medical record.
- (2) Prescribe the anesthesia plan.
- (3) Personally participate in and document the most demanding procedures in the anesthesia plan, including induction and emergence, if applicable.
- (4) Ensure that any procedures in the anesthesia plan that the anesthesiologist does not perform are performed by a certified nurse anesthetist or anesthesiologist assistant, as appropriate.
- (5) Monitor the course of anesthesia administration at frequent intervals and document that they were present during some portion of the anesthesia monitoring.
- (6) Remain physically present and available for immediate diagnosis and treatment of emergencies.
- (7) Provide indicated post-anesthesia care."

SECTION 9L.3.(c) G.S. 135-48.51 reads as rewritten:

"§ 135-48.51. Coverage and operational mandates related to Chapter 58 of the General Statutes.

The following provisions of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes apply to the State Health Plan:

...

1 (11a) G.S. 58-3-301, Medical direction of nurse anesthetists.

2 "

3 **SECTION 9L.3.(d)** G.S. 58-93-120 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 58-93-120. Other laws applicable to PHPs.**

5 The following provisions of this Chapter are applicable to PHPs in the manner in which they
6 are applicable to insurers:

7 ...

8 (14a) G.S. 58-3-301, Medical direction of nurse anesthetists.

9 "

10 **SECTION 9L.3.(e)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
11 Health Benefits (DHB), shall review the Medicaid State Plan and all applicable Medicaid clinical
12 coverage policies to ensure that the Medicaid program is paying anesthesiologists for medical
13 direction of nurse anesthetists at fifty percent (50%) of the reimbursement the anesthesiologist
14 would receive if they performed the work alone. DHB shall further ensure that all requirements
15 for reimbursement of anesthesiologist medical direction services are in compliance with the Tax
16 Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, Public Law 97-248 (TEFRA). This includes
17 verification that all prepaid health plans and local management entities/managed care
18 organizations are also in compliance.

19 **SECTION 9L.3.(f)** Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective October 1, 2023,
20 and applies to services rendered on or after that date. Subsections (b) and (c) of this section
21 become effective October 1, 2023, and apply to insurance contracts issued, renewed, or amended
22 on or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

23 24 **MEDICAL BILLING TRANSPARENCY**

25 **SECTION 9L.4.(a)** Article 3 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by
26 adding a new section to read:

27 "**§ 58-3-295. Contract requirements for limitations on billing by in-network health service**
28 **facilities.**

29 (a) The following definitions apply in this section:

30 (1) Health service facility. – As defined in G.S. 131E-176(9b) and including any
31 office location of the facility.

32 (2) Healthcare provider. – Any individual licensed, registered, or certified under
33 Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, or under the laws of another state, to
34 provide healthcare services in the ordinary care of business or practice, as a
35 profession, or in an approved education or training program in any of the
36 following:

37 a. Anesthesia or anesthesiology.

38 b. Emergency services, as defined under G.S. 58-3-190(g).

39 c. Pathology.

40 d. Radiology.

41 e. Rendering assistance to a physician performing any of the services
42 listed in this subdivision.

43 (3) Out-of-network provider. – A healthcare provider that has not entered into a
44 contract or agreement with an insurer to participate in one or more of the
45 insurer's provider networks for the provision of healthcare services at a
46 pre-negotiated rate.

47 (b) All contracts or agreements for participation as an in-network health service facility
48 between an insurer offering at least one health benefit plan in this State and a health service
49 facility at which there are out-of-network providers who may be part of the provision of covered
50 services to an insured while receiving care at the health service facility shall require that an

in-network health service facility give written notification to an insured that has scheduled an appointment at that health service facility. This written notice shall include all of the following:

(1) All of the healthcare providers that will be rendering services to the insured and that are not participating as in-network healthcare providers in the applicable insurer's network.

(2) The estimated cost to the insured of the covered healthcare services being rendered by the out-of-network providers identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(c) The written notice required under subsection (b) of this section shall be given at least 72 hours prior to the rendering of healthcare services at the in-network health service facility. If there are not at least 72 hours between the time that the appointment for healthcare services is made and the scheduled appointment, then the in-network health service facility shall give the required written notice to the insured on the day the appointment is scheduled, unless the healthcare services provided are emergency services. If the healthcare services provided are emergency services, then the in-network health service facility shall give written notice to the insured as soon as reasonably possible.

(d) If any provision of this section conflicts with the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, P.L. 116-260, and any amendments to that act or regulations promulgated pursuant to that act, then the provisions of P.L. 116-260 will be applied."

SECTION 9L.4.(b) This section becomes effective October 1, 2023, and applies to contracts entered into, amended, or renewed on or after that date.

PART IX-M. DHHS BLOCK GRANTS

DHHS BLOCK GRANTS

SECTION 9M.1.(a) Except as otherwise provided, appropriations from federal Block Grant funds are made for each year of the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2025, according to the following schedule:

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) FUNDS	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
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Local Program Expenditures

Division of Social Services

01. Work First Family Assistance	\$31,328,255	\$31,259,794
02. Work First County Block Grants	80,093,566	80,093,566
03. Work First Electing Counties	2,378,213	2,378,213
04. Adoption Services – Special Children Adoption Fund	4,001,676	4,001,676
05. Child Protective Services – Child Welfare Workers for Local DSS	11,387,190	11,387,190
06. Child Welfare Program Improvement Plan	775,176	775,176
07. Child Welfare Collaborative	400,000	400,000

1			
2	08. Child Welfare Initiatives	1,400,000	1,400,000
3			
4	Division of Child Development and Early Education		
5			
6	09. Subsidized Child Care Program	45,813,694	45,813,694
7			
8	10. Swap-Child Care Subsidy	12,600,000	12,600,000
9			
10	11. NC Pre-K Services	68,300,000	68,300,000
11			
12	Division of Public Health		
13			
14	12. Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives	3,538,541	3,538,541
15			
16	DHHS Administration		
17			
18	13. Division of Social Services	2,478,284	2,478,284
19			
20	14. Division of Child and Family Well-Being	3,976	3,976
21			
22	15. Office of the Secretary	34,042	34,042
23			
24	16. Eligibility Systems – Operations and		
25	Maintenance	431,733	431,733
26			
27	17. NC FAST Implementation	428,239	428,239
28			
29	18. Division of Social Services – Workforce		
30	Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)	93,216	93,216
31			
32	19. Division of Social Services TANF Modernization	1,667,571	1,667,571
33			
34	Transfers to Other Block Grants		
35			
36	Division of Child Development and Early Education		
37			
38	20. Transfer to the Child Care and		
39	Development Fund	21,773,001	21,773,001
40			
41	Division of Social Services		
42			
43	21. Transfer to Social Services Block		
44	Grant for Child Protective Services –		
45	Training	285,612	285,612
46			
47	22. Transfer to Social Services Block		
48	Grant for Child Protective Services	5,040,000	5,040,000
49			
50	23. Transfer to Social Services Block		
51	Grant for County Departments of		

1	Social Services for Children's Services	13,097,783	13,166,244
2			
3	24. Transfer to Social Services Block		
4	Grant – Foster Care Services	3,422,219	3,422,219
5			
6	25. Transfer to Social Services Block	1,582,000	1,582,000
7	Grant – Child Advocacy Centers		
8			
9	TOTAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR		
10	NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) FUNDS	\$312,353,987	\$312,353,987
11			
12	TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)		
13	EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUNDS		
14			
15	Local Program Expenditures		
16			
17	Division of Child Development and Early Education		
18			
19	01. Subsidized Child Care	\$34,440,000	\$35,440,000
20			
21	TOTAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR		
22	NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) EMERGENCY		
23	CONTINGENCY FUNDS	\$34,440,000	\$35,440,000
24			
25	SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT		
26			
27	Local Program Expenditures		
28			
29	Divisions of Social Services and Aging and Adult Services		
30			
31	01. County Departments of Social Services	\$19,905,849	\$19,837,388
32			
33	02. County Departments of Social Services		
34	(Transfer From TANF)	13,097,783	13,166,244
35			
36	03. EBCI Tribal Public Health and Human Services	244,740	244,740
37			
38	04. Child Protective Services		
39	(Transfer From TANF)	5,040,000	5,040,000
40			
41	05. State In-Home Services Fund	1,943,950	1,943,950
42			
43	06. Adult Protective Services	2,138,404	2,138,404
44			
45	07. State Adult Day Care Fund	1,994,084	1,994,084
46			
47	08. Child Protective Services/CPS		
48	Investigative Services – Child Medical		
49	Evaluation Program	901,868	901,868
50			
51	09. Special Children Adoption Incentive Fund	462,600	462,600

1			
2	10. Child Protective Services – Child		
3	Welfare Training for Counties		
4	(Transfer From TANF)	285,612	285,612
5			
6	11. Home and Community Care Block		
7	Grant (HCCBG)	2,696,888	2,696,888
8			
9	12. Child Advocacy Centers		
10	(Transfer from TANF \$1,582,000)	6,356,525	6,356,525
11			
12	13. Guardianship – Division of Social Services	1,802,671	1,802,671
13			
14	14. Foster Care Services		
15	(Transfer From TANF)	3,422,219	3,422,219
16			
17	Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services		
18			
19	15. Mental Health Services – Adult and		
20	Child/Developmental Disabilities Program/		
21	Substance Abuse Services – Adult	4,149,595	4,149,595
22			
23	DHHS Program Expenditures		
24			
25	Division of Services for the Blind		
26			
27	16. Independent Living Program & Program		
28	Oversight	3,880,429	3,880,429
29			
30	Division of Health Service Regulation		
31			
32	17. Adult Care Licensure Program	557,598	557,598
33			
34	18. Mental Health Licensure and		
35	Certification Program	266,158	266,158
36			
37	Division of Aging and Adult Services		
38			
39	19. Guardianship	3,825,443	3,825,443
40			
41	DHHS Administration		
42			
43	20. Division of Aging and Adult Services	743,284	743,284
44			
45	21. Division of Social Services	1,042,894	1,042,894
46			
47	22. Office of the Secretary/Controller's Office	639,167	639,167
48			
49	23. Legislative Increases/Fringe Benefits	293,655	587,310
50			
51	24. Division of Child Development and		

1	Early Education	13,878	13,878
2			
3	25. Division of Mental Health, Developmental		
4	Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services	28,325	28,325
5			
6	26. Division of Health Service Regulation	258,960	258,960
7			
8	TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	\$75,992,579	\$76,286,234
9			
10	LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE BLOCK GRANT		
11			
12	Local Program Expenditures		
13			
14	Division of Social Services		
15			
16	01. Low-Income Energy Assistance		
17	Program (LIEAP)	\$67,836,069	\$67,836,069
18			
19	02. Crisis Intervention Program (CIP)	45,214,330	45,214,330
20			
21	Local Administration		
22			
23	Division of Social Services		
24			
25	03. County DSS Administration	8,789,246	8,789,246
26			
27	DHHS Administration		
28			
29	Division of Social Services		
30			
31	04. Administration	10,000	10,000
32			
33	05. Energy Portal (FIS Transaction Fees)	25,000	25,000
34			
35	Division of Central Management and Support		
36			
37	06. Office of the Secretary/DIRM (Accountable Results for		
38	Community Action (AR4CA) Replacement System)	166,750	166,750
39			
40	07. Office of the Secretary/DIRM	278,954	278,954
41			
42	08. Office of the Secretary/Controller's Office	18,378	18,378
43			
44	09. NC FAST Development	627,869	627,869
45			
46	10. NC FAST Operations and Maintenance	1,330,323	1,330,323
47			
48	Transfers to Other State Agencies		
49			
50	Department of Environmental Quality		
51			

1	11. Weatherization Program	13,220,309	13,220,309
2			
3	12. Heating Air Repair and Replacement		
4	Program (HARRP)	8,075,029	8,075,029
5			
6	13. Local Residential Energy Efficiency Service		
7	Providers – Weatherization	787,097	787,097
8			
9	14. Local Residential Energy Efficiency Service		
10	Providers – HARRP	437,276	437,276
11			
12	15. DEQ – Weatherization Administration	859,976	859,976
13			
14	16. DEQ – HARRP Administration	539,307	539,307
15			
16	Department of Administration		
17			
18	17. N.C. Commission on Indian Affairs	87,736	87,736
19			
20	TOTAL LOW-INCOME ENERGY		
21	ASSISTANCE BLOCK GRANT	\$148,303,649	\$148,303,649
22			
23	CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND BLOCK GRANT		
24			
25	Local Program Expenditures		
26			
27	Division of Child Development and Early Education		
28			
29	01. Child Care Services	\$289,070,072	\$289,070,072
30			
31	02. Smart Start Subsidy	7,392,654	7,392,654
32			
33	03. Transfer from TANF Block Grant		
34	for Child Care Subsidies	21,773,001	21,773,001
35			
36	04. Quality and Availability Initiatives		
37	(TEACH Program \$3,800,000)	61,980,526	61,980,526
38			
39	DHHS Administration		
40			
41	Division of Child Development and Early Education		
42			
43	05. DCDEE Administrative Expenses	9,710,886	9,710,886
44			
45	06. Indirect Cost	7,346	7,346
46			
47	Division of Social Services		
48			
49	07. Direct Deposit for Child Care Payments	5,000	5,000
50			
51	08. Local Subsidized Child Care		

1	Services Support	18,780,355	18,780,355
2			
3	Division of Central Management and Support		
4			
5	09. NC FAST Operations and Maintenance	1,450,316	1,450,316
6			
7	10. DHHS Central Administration – DIRM		
8	Technical Services	979,762	979,762
9			
10	11. DHHS Central Administration	68,000	68,000
11			
12	Division of Child and Family Well-Being		
13			
14	12. Child Care Health Consultation Contracts	62,205	62,205
15			
16	TOTAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT		
17	FUND BLOCK GRANT	\$411,280,123	\$411,280,123
18			
19	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT		
20			
21	Local Program Expenditures		
22			
23	01. Mental Health Services – Child	\$2,477,666	\$2,477,666
24			
25	02. Mental Health Services – Adult/Child	19,690,452	19,690,452
26			
27	03. Mental Health Services – First		
28	Psychotic Symptom Treatment	5,416,756	5,416,756
29			
30	04. Child Behavioral Health (Division of Child		
31	and Family Well-Being)	5,246,350	5,246,350
32			
33	DHHS Administration		
34			
35	Division of Child and Family Well-Being		
36			
37	05. Administration	140,000	140,000
38			
39	Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services		
40			
41	06. Crisis Services	2,877,047	2,877,047
42			
43	07. Administration	332,351	332,351
44			
45	08. Adult/Child Mental Health Services	350,150	350,150
46			
47	Division of Public Health		
48			
49	09. NC Detect – Behavioral Health ER	35,000	35,000
50			
51	TOTAL COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES		

1	BLOCK GRANT	\$36,565,772	\$36,565,772
2			
3	SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY SERVICES		
4	BLOCK GRANT		
5			
6	Local Program Expenditures		
7			
8	Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services		
9			
10	01. Substance Abuse – IV Drug	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
11			
12	02. Substance Abuse Prevention	20,245,927	20,245,927
13			
14	03. Substance Abuse Services – Treatment for		
15	Children/Adults		
16	(Healing Transitions \$200,000)	41,951,849	41,951,848
17			
18	DHHS Program Expenditures		
19			
20	Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services		
21			
22	04. Crisis Solutions Initiatives – Collegiate		
23	Wellness/Addiction Recovery	1,545,205	1,545,205
24			
25	05. Veterans Initiatives	250,000	250,000
26			
27	06. Triangle Residential Options for		
28	Substance Abusers, Inc., (TROSAs)	3,225,000	3,225,000
29			
30	DHHS Administration		
31			
32	Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services		
33			
34	07. Administration	2,297,852	2,297,852
35			
36	08. Controlled Substance Reporting System	675,000	675,000
37			
38	TOTAL SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY		
39	SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	\$72,190,833	\$72,190,832
40			
41	MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT		
42			
43	Local Program Expenditures		
44			
45	Division of Child and Family Well-Being		
46			
47	01. Children's Health Services		
48	(Prevent Blindness \$575,000;		
49	Nurse-Family Partnership \$950,000)	\$11,169,581	\$11,169,581
50			
51	Division of Public Health		

1			
2	02. Women's and Children's Health Services		
3	(March of Dimes \$350,000;		
4	Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives \$650,000;		
5	Perinatal & Neonatal Outreach		
6	Coordinator Contracts \$440,000; Mountain Area		
7	Pregnancy Services \$50,000)	3,914,007	3,914,007
8			
9	03. Oral Health	51,119	51,119
10			
11	04. Evidence-Based Programs in Counties		
12	With Highest Infant Mortality Rates	1,575,000	1,575,000
13			
14	DHHS Program Expenditures		
15			
16	05. Children's Health Services	1,344,492	1,344,492
17			
18	06. Women's Health – Maternal Health	252,695	252,695
19			
20	07. Women's and Children's Health – Perinatal		
21	Strategic Plan Support Position	80,669	80,669
22			
23	08. State Center for Health Statistics	158,583	158,583
24			
25	09. Health Promotion – Injury and		
26	Violence Prevention	87,271	87,271
27			
28	DHHS Administration		
29			
30	10. Division of Public Health Administration	340,646	340,646
31			
32	11. Division of Child and Family Well-Being		
33	Administration	211,925	211,925
34			
35	TOTAL MATERNAL AND CHILD		
36	HEALTH BLOCK GRANT	\$19,185,988	\$19,185,988
37			
38	PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT		
39			
40	Local Program Expenditures		
41			
42	01. Physical Activity and Prevention	\$3,081,442	\$3,081,442
43			
44	DHHS Program Expenditures		
45			
46	Division of Public Health		
47			
48	02. HIV/STD Prevention and		
49	Community Planning	135,063	135,063
50			
51	03. Oral Health Preventive Services	150,000	150,000

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04. Injury and Violence Prevention (Services to Rape Victims – Set-Aside)	217,935	217,935
05. Performance Improvement and Accountability	560,182	560,182
06. State Center for Health Statistics	48,000	48,000
DHHS Administration		
Division of Public Health		
07. Division of Public Health	65,000	65,000
TOTAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	\$4,257,622	\$4,257,622
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT		
01. Community Action Agencies	\$21,695,970	\$20,244,923
02. Limited Purpose Agencies/Discretionary Funding	457,553	504,718
03. Office of Economic Opportunity	1,077,552	1,124,718
04. Office of the Secretary/DIRM (Accountable Results for Community Action (AR4CA) Replacement System)	560,000	560,000
05. Office of Economic Opportunity – Workforce Investment Opportunities Act (WIOA)	60,000	60,000
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	\$23,851,075	\$22,494,359

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 9M.1.(b) Information to be Included in Block Grant Plans. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a separate plan for each Block Grant received and administered by the Department, and each plan shall include the following:

- (1) A delineation of the proposed allocations by program or activity, including State and federal match requirements.
- (2) A delineation of the proposed State and local administrative expenditures.
- (3) An identification of all new positions to be established through the Block Grant, including permanent, temporary, and time-limited positions.
- (4) A comparison of the proposed allocations by program or activity with two prior years' program and activity budgets and two prior years' actual program or activity expenditures.
- (5) A projection of current year expenditures by program or activity.
- (6) A projection of federal Block Grant funds available, including unspent federal funds from the current and prior fiscal years.

- 1 (7) The required amount of maintenance of effort and the amount of funds
2 qualifying for maintenance of effort in the previous year delineated by
3 program or activity.

4 **SECTION 9M.1.(c)** Changes in Federal Fund Availability. – If the Congress of the
5 United States increases the federal fund availability for any of the Block Grants or contingency
6 funds and other grants related to existing Block Grants administered by the Department of Health
7 and Human Services from the amounts appropriated in this act, the Department shall allocate the
8 increase proportionally across the program and activity appropriations identified for that Block
9 Grant in this section. In allocating an increase in federal fund availability, the Office of State
10 Budget and Management shall not approve funding for new programs or activities not
11 appropriated in this act.

12 If the Congress of the United States decreases the federal fund availability for any of
13 the Block Grants or contingency funds and other grants related to existing Block Grants
14 administered by the Department of Health and Human Services from the amounts appropriated
15 in this act, the Department shall develop a plan to adjust the Block Grants based on reduced
16 federal funding.

17 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, for fiscal years 2023-2024 and
18 2024-2025, increases in the federal fund availability for the Temporary Assistance to Needy
19 Families (TANF) Block Grant shall be used only for the North Carolina Child Care Subsidy
20 program to pay for child care and shall not be used to supplant State funds.

21 Prior to allocating the change in federal fund availability, the proposed allocation
22 must be approved by the Office of State Budget and Management. If the Department adjusts the
23 allocation of any Block Grant due to changes in federal fund availability, then a report shall be
24 made to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal
25 Research Division.

26 **SECTION 9M.1.(d)** Except as otherwise provided, appropriations from federal
27 Block Grant funds are made for each year of the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2025, according
28 to the schedule enacted for State fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, or until a new schedule
29 is enacted by the General Assembly.

30 **SECTION 9M.1.(e)** All changes to the budgeted allocations to the Block Grants or
31 contingency funds and other grants related to existing Block Grants administered by the
32 Department of Health and Human Services that are not specifically addressed in this section shall
33 be approved by the Office of State Budget and Management. The Office of State Budget and
34 Management shall not approve funding for new programs or activities not appropriated in this
35 section. However, the Office of State Budget and Management shall have the authority to realign
36 appropriated funds in the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant between the categories to
37 maintain federal compliance and programmatic alignment, so long as the realignment does not
38 result in a reduction of funds designated for subrecipients under subsection (a) of this section.
39 Additionally, if budgeted allocations are decreased, the Office of State Budget and Management
40 shall not approve any reduction of funds designated for subrecipients in subsection (a) of this
41 section under (i) Item 03 of the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services
42 Block Grant or (ii) Item 01 or 02 of the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. The Office of
43 State Budget and Management shall consult with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
44 Health and Human Services for review prior to implementing any changes. In consulting, the
45 report shall include an itemized listing of affected programs, including associated changes in
46 budgeted allocations. All changes to the budgeted allocations to the Block Grants shall be
47 reported immediately to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human
48 Services and the Fiscal Research Division. This subsection does not apply to Block Grant
49 changes caused by legislative salary increases and benefit adjustments.

50 **SECTION 9M.1.(f)** Except as otherwise provided, the Department of Health and
51 Human Services shall have flexibility to transfer funding between the Temporary Assistance for

1 Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant and the TANF Emergency Contingency Funds Block Grant
2 so long as the total allocation for the line items within those Block Grants remains the same.
3

4 **TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) FUNDS**

5 **SECTION 9M.1.(g)** The sum of eighty million ninety-three thousand five hundred
6 sixty-six dollars (\$80,093,566) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium appropriated in
7 this act in TANF funds to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social
8 Services, shall be used for Work First County Block Grants. The Division shall certify these
9 funds in the appropriate State-level services based on prior year actual expenditures. The Division
10 has the authority to realign the authorized budget for these funds among the State-level services
11 based on current year actual expenditures. The Division shall also have the authority to realign
12 appropriated funds from Work First Family Assistance for electing counties to the Work First
13 County Block Grant for electing counties based on current year expenditures so long as the
14 electing counties meet Maintenance of Effort requirements.

15 **SECTION 9M.1.(h)** The sum of eleven million three hundred eighty-seven thousand
16 one hundred ninety dollars (\$11,387,190) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium
17 appropriated in this act to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social
18 Services, in TANF funds for child welfare improvements shall be allocated to the county
19 departments of social services for hiring or contracting staff to investigate and provide services
20 in Child Protective Services cases; to provide foster care and support services; to recruit, train,
21 license, and support prospective foster and adoptive families; and to provide interstate and
22 post-adoption services for eligible families.

23 Counties shall maintain their level of expenditures in local funds for Child Protective
24 Services workers. Of the Block Grant funds appropriated for Child Protective Services workers,
25 the total expenditures from State and local funds for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 shall
26 not be less than the total expended from State and local funds for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

27 **SECTION 9M.1.(i)** The sum of four million one thousand six hundred seventy-six
28 dollars (\$4,001,676) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium appropriated in this act in
29 TANF funds to the Department of Health and Human Services, Special Children Adoption Fund,
30 shall be used in accordance with G.S. 108A-50.2. The Division of Social Services, in consultation
31 with the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services and representatives
32 of licensed private adoption agencies, shall develop guidelines for the awarding of funds to
33 licensed public and private adoption agencies upon the adoption of children described in
34 G.S. 108A-50 and in foster care. Payments received from the Special Children Adoption Fund
35 by participating agencies shall be used exclusively to enhance the adoption services program. No
36 local match shall be required as a condition for receipt of these funds.

37 **SECTION 9M.1.(j)** The sum of one million four hundred thousand dollars
38 (\$1,400,000) appropriated in this act in TANF funds to the Department of Health and Human
39 Services, Division of Social Services, for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall
40 be used for child welfare initiatives to (i) enhance the skills of social workers to improve the
41 outcomes for families and children involved in child welfare and (ii) enhance the provision of
42 services to families in their homes in the least restrictive setting.

43 **SECTION 9M.1.(k)** Of the three million five hundred thirty-eight thousand five
44 hundred forty-one dollars (\$3,538,541) allocated in this section in TANF funds to the Department
45 of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal
46 biennium for teen pregnancy prevention initiatives, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars
47 (\$500,000) in each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to provide services for
48 youth in foster care or the juvenile justice system.
49

50 **SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

1 **SECTION 9M.1.(l)** The sum of nineteen million nine hundred five thousand eight
2 hundred forty-nine dollars (\$19,905,849) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of nineteen
3 million eight hundred thirty-seven thousand three hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$19,837,388) for
4 the 2024-2025 fiscal year appropriated in this act in the Social Services Block Grant to the
5 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, and the sum of thirteen
6 million ninety-seven thousand seven hundred eighty-three dollars (\$13,097,783) for the
7 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of thirteen million one hundred sixty-six thousand two
8 hundred forty-four dollars (\$13,166,244) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year transferred from funds
9 appropriated in the TANF Block Grant shall be used for county Block Grants. The Division shall
10 certify these funds in the appropriate State-level services based on prior year actual expenditures.
11 The Division has the authority to realign the authorized budget for these funds, as well as State
12 Social Services Block Grant funds, among the State-level services based on current year actual
13 expenditures.

14 **SECTION 9M.1.(m)** The sum of two hundred eighty-five thousand six hundred
15 twelve dollars (\$285,612) appropriated in this act in the Social Services Block Grant to the
16 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, for each fiscal year of
17 the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to support various child welfare training projects as
18 follows:

- 19 (1) Provide a regional training center in southeastern North Carolina.
- 20 (2) Provide training for residential child caring facilities.
- 21 (3) Provide for various other child welfare training initiatives.

22 **SECTION 9M.1.(n)** The Department of Health and Human Services is authorized,
23 subject to the approval of the Office of State Budget and Management, to transfer Social Services
24 Block Grant funding allocated for departmental administration between divisions that have
25 received administrative allocations from the Social Services Block Grant.

26 **SECTION 9M.1.(o)** Social Services Block Grant funds appropriated for the Special
27 Children Adoption Incentive Fund shall require a fifty percent (50%) local match.

28 **SECTION 9M.1.(p)** The sum of five million forty thousand dollars (\$5,040,000)
29 appropriated in this act in the Social Services Block Grant for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025
30 fiscal biennium transferred from funds appropriated in the TANF Block Grant shall be allocated
31 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services. The Division shall
32 allocate these funds to local departments of social services to replace the loss of Child Protective
33 Services State funds that are currently used by county governments to pay for Child Protective
34 Services staff at the local level. These funds shall be used to maintain the number of Child
35 Protective Services workers throughout the State. These Social Services Block Grant funds shall
36 be used to pay for salaries and related expenses only and are exempt from 10A NCAC 71R
37 .0201(3) requiring a local match of twenty-five percent (25%).

38 **SECTION 9M.1.(q)** The sum of six million three hundred fifty-six thousand five
39 hundred twenty-five dollars (\$6,356,525) appropriated in this act in the Social Services Block
40 Grant for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to the Department of Health and
41 Human Services, Division of Social Services, shall be used to continue support for the Child
42 Advocacy Centers. These funds are exempt from the provisions of 10A NCAC 71R .0201(3).

43 **SECTION 9M.1.(r)** The sum of three million eight hundred twenty-five thousand
44 four hundred forty-three dollars (\$3,825,443) for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal
45 biennium appropriated in this act in the Social Services Block Grant to the Department of Health
46 and Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services, shall be used for guardianship
47 services pursuant to Chapter 35A of the General Statutes. The Department may expend funds
48 allocated in this section to support existing corporate guardianship contracts during the
49 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years.

50 **SECTION 9M.1.(s)** Of the two million one hundred thirty-eight thousand four
51 hundred four dollars (\$2,138,404) appropriated in this act in the Social Services Block Grant to

1 the Division of Aging and Adult Services for Adult Protective Services for each year of the
2 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the sum of eight hundred ninety-three thousand forty-one dollars
3 (\$893,041) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to increase the number
4 of Adult Protective Services workers where these funds can be the most effective. These funds
5 shall be used to pay for salaries and related expenses and shall not be used to supplant any other
6 source of funding for staff. These funds are also exempt from 10A NCAC 71R .0201(3) requiring
7 a local match of twenty-five percent (25%).
8

9 **LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE BLOCK GRANT**

10 **SECTION 9M.1.(t)** The Division of Social Services shall have the authority to
11 realign appropriated funds between the State-level services Low-Income Energy Assistance
12 Payments and Crisis Assistance Payments without prior consultation with the Joint Legislative
13 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services to ensure needs are effectively met without
14 exceeding the total amount appropriated for these State-level service items. Additional
15 emergency contingency funds received may be allocated for Energy Assistance Payments or
16 Crisis Intervention Payments without prior consultation with the Joint Legislative Oversight
17 Committee on Health and Human Services. Additional funds received shall be reported to the
18 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research
19 Division upon notification of the award. The Department of Health and Human Services shall
20 not allocate funds for any activities, including increasing administration, other than assistance
21 payments, without prior consultation with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health
22 and Human Services.

23 **SECTION 9M.1.(u)** The sum of sixty-seven million eight hundred thirty-six
24 thousand sixty-nine dollars (\$67,836,069) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium
25 appropriated in this act in the Low-Income Energy Assistance Block Grant to the Department of
26 Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, shall be used for Energy Assistance
27 Payments for the households of (i) elderly persons age 60 and above with income up to one
28 hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federal poverty level and (ii) disabled persons eligible for
29 services funded through the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

30 County departments of social services shall submit to the Division of Social Services
31 an outreach plan for targeting households with 60-year-old household members no later than
32 August 1 of each year. The outreach plan shall comply with the following:

- 33 (1) Ensure that eligible households are made aware of the available assistance,
34 with particular attention paid to the elderly population age 60 and above and
35 disabled persons receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult
36 Services.
- 37 (2) Include efforts by the county department of social services to contact other
38 State and local governmental entities and community-based organizations to
39 (i) offer the opportunity to provide outreach and (ii) receive applications for
40 energy assistance.
- 41 (3) Be approved by the local board of social services or human services board
42 prior to submission.
43

44 **CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND BLOCK GRANT**

45 **SECTION 9M.1.(v)** Payment for subsidized child care services provided with
46 federal TANF funds shall comply with all regulations and policies issued by the Division of Child
47 Development and Early Education for the subsidized child care program.

48 **SECTION 9M.1.(w)** If funds appropriated through the Child Care and Development
49 Fund Block Grant for any program cannot be obligated or spent in that program within the
50 obligation or liquidation periods allowed by the federal grants, the Department may move funds

1 to child care subsidies, unless otherwise prohibited by federal requirements of the grant, in order
2 to use the federal funds fully.

3 **SECTION 9M.1.(x)** Of the sixty-one million nine hundred eighty thousand five
4 hundred twenty-six dollars (\$61,980,526) appropriated in this act in the Child Care and
5 Development Block Grant for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Department of Health and Human
6 Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of one million three
7 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,350,000) shall be used to establish 18 new positions.

9 **COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

10 **SECTION 9M.1.(y)** The sum of five million four hundred sixteen thousand seven
11 hundred fifty-six dollars (\$5,416,756) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium
12 appropriated in this act in the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant to the Department
13 of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
14 Substance Abuse Services, is to be used for Mental Health Services – First Psychotic Symptom
15 Treatment.

16 **SECTION 9M.1.(z)** Of the funds appropriated in this act in the Community Mental
17 Health Services Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
18 Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, for each fiscal year
19 of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the sum of three hundred fifty thousand one hundred fifty
20 dollars (\$350,150) shall be used for three positions and cover operating costs focused on
21 developing pilot programs and implementing policy to improve services to transition-aged youth
22 and adults with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance.

23 24 **SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY SERVICES** 25 **BLOCK GRANT**

26 **SECTION 9M.1.(aa)** Of the two million two hundred ninety-seven thousand eight
27 hundred fifty-two dollars (\$2,297,852) provided in this section in the Substance Use Prevention,
28 Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium
29 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental
30 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, for administration, the sum of nine hundred
31 fifty-nine thousand four hundred dollars (\$959,400) shall be used to support nine new positions.

32 **SECTION 9M.1.(bb)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law or provision of
33 the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of S.L. 2022-74 to the contrary, the sum of one
34 million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in nonrecurring funds provided to Haywood
35 County and the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in nonrecurring
36 funds provided to Madison County under the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
37 Block Grant in Item 3 of Section 9L.1(a) and Section 9L.1(z2)(1) of S.L. 2021-180, as amended
38 in Section 9L.1 of S.L. 2022-74, for the 2022-2023 fiscal year for substance use treatment shall
39 remain available for expenditure in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

40 41 **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT**

42 **SECTION 9M.1.(cc)** If federal funds are received under the Maternal and Child
43 Health Block Grant for abstinence education, pursuant to section 912 of Public Law 104-193 (42
44 U.S.C. § 710), for the 2023-2024 fiscal year or the 2024-2025 fiscal year, then those funds shall
45 be transferred to the State Board of Education to be administered by the Department of Public
46 Instruction. The Department of Public Instruction shall use the funds to establish an abstinence
47 until marriage education program consistent with G.S. 115C-81.30. The Department of Public
48 Instruction shall carefully and strictly follow federal guidelines in implementing and
49 administering the abstinence education grant funds.

50 **SECTION 9M.1.(dd)** Of the three million nine hundred fourteen thousand seven
51 dollars (\$3,914,007) provided in this section in the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant for

1 each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to the Department of Health and Human Services,
2 Division of Public Health, for Women's and Children's Health Services, the sum of three hundred
3 four thousand six hundred fifteen dollars (\$304,615) in nonrecurring funds for each year of the
4 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used for the following initiatives:

- 5 (1) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the 2023-2024 fiscal
6 year and the sum of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) for
7 the 2024-2025 fiscal year for the Healthy Beginnings Program evaluation.
- 8 (2) The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2023-2024 fiscal
9 year for the Perinatal Health Equity Collective for training and toolkit
10 development.
- 11 (3) The sum of one hundred twenty-nine thousand six hundred fifteen dollars
12 (\$129,615) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for a doula initiative.
- 13 (4) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for each year of the
14 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for the Adolescent Parenting Program (AP2) pilot
15 program.
- 16 (5) The sum of fifty-four thousand six hundred fifteen dollars (\$54,615) for the
17 2024-2025 fiscal year for perinatal incarceration supports.

18 **SECTION 9M.1.(ee)** The sum of one million five hundred seventy-five thousand
19 dollars (\$1,575,000) appropriated in this act in the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant to the
20 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, for each year of the
21 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used for evidence-based programs in counties with the
22 highest infant mortality rates. The Division shall report on (i) the counties selected to receive the
23 allocation, (ii) the specific evidence-based services provided, (iii) the number of women served,
24 and (iv) any impact on the counties' infant mortality rate. The Division shall report its findings
25 to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the
26 Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research
27 Division no later than December 31 of each year.

28 **SECTION 9M.1.(ff)** The sum of eighty thousand six hundred sixty-nine dollars
29 (\$80,669) allocated in this section in the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant to the
30 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Women and Children's
31 Health Section, for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall not be used to supplant
32 existing State or federal funds. This allocation shall be used for a Public Health Program
33 Consultant position assigned full-time to manage the North Carolina Perinatal Health Strategic
34 Plan and provide staff support for the stakeholder work group.

35 **SECTION 9M.1.(gg)** At least ninety percent (90%) of the funds allocated for
36 Mountain Area Pregnancy Services, a nonprofit organization, in the Maternal and Child Health
37 Block Grant for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used for direct services.

38 **SECTION 9M.1.(hh)** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
39 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, shall have the authority
40 to realign appropriated funds between the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant categories to
41 maintain federal compliance and programmatic alignment without exceeding the total amount
42 appropriated for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

43 **PART X. AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

44 **LARGE ANIMAL HEALTH ENHANCEMENT FUND**

45 **SECTION 10.1.(a)** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Agriculture
46 and Consumer Services for the enhancement of large animal veterinary services in the State shall
47 be allocated to the Large Animal Healthcare Enhancement Fund created in Article 88 of Chapter
48 106 of the General Statutes, as enacted by subsection (b) of this section, for the purposes set forth
49 therein.
50
51

1 (d) Removal. – The appointing authority shall have the power to remove any member of
2 the Commission appointed by that authority from office for misfeasance, malfeasance, or
3 nonfeasance.

4 (e) Reimbursement. – The members of the Commission shall receive per diem and
5 necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 138-5.

6 (f) Meetings. – The Advisory Committee shall meet at least once every six months and
7 may meet more often upon the call of the chair. A majority of the members of the Commission
8 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

9 (g) Ethics. – Members of the Advisory Committee are public servants as defined by
10 G.S. 138A-3(70).

11 (h) Staff. – The staff of the Authority shall serve as staff to assist the Advisory Committee
12 in carrying out administrative functions in the discharge of its duties and responsibilities.

13 **"§ 106-1074. Large Animal Healthcare Enhancement Fund.**

14 (a) Fund Created. – The Large Animal Healthcare Enhancement Fund is created as a
15 special fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Fund shall be
16 administered by the Authority. The purpose of the fund is to make grants to encourage veterinary
17 students to enter and stay in large animal veterinarian practice and to support large animal
18 veterinarian practices to enable them to better serve their designated counties.

19 (b) Fund Sources. – The Fund shall consist of any money appropriated to it by the General
20 Assembly and any money received from public or private sources. Unexpended, unencumbered
21 money in the Fund from sources other than appropriations from the General Assembly shall not
22 revert and shall remain available for expenditure in accordance with this section. The Authority
23 may use up to five percent (5%) of General Fund appropriations in each fiscal year for
24 administrative support.

25 (c) Grant Eligibility. – A large animal veterinarian who practices or plans to practice in
26 one or more designated counties may be eligible for a grant of up to twenty-five thousand dollars
27 (\$25,000) per fiscal year. Applicants shall apply in a format to be determined by the Advisory
28 Commission, but the application shall require the applicant to state the designated counties in
29 which the large animal veterinarian is practicing or plans to practice, the amount of funding
30 requested, and the approved use for which the applicant intends to use the funds. When
31 determining which applicants shall be awarded grant funds, the Advisory Committee shall
32 consider all of the following criteria:

33 (1) The geographic area of the State that an applicant serves or would serve and
34 the need for large animal veterinary services in that area of the State.

35 (2) The number of designated counties that an applicant serves or would serve.

36 (3) The number of different large animal veterinarian specialties in which the
37 applicant practices.

38 (4) The percentage of time the applicant devotes to large animal veterinary
39 services.

40 (5) Any additional criteria the Advisory Committee determines to be appropriate.

41 (d) Uses of Grant Funds. – The grant recipient may use the funds to support the recipient's
42 large animal veterinary practice, including any of the following:

43 (1) The repayment of educational loans related to the recipient's veterinary
44 degree.

45 (2) The purchase of equipment or technology for use in the recipient's large
46 animal veterinary practice.

47 (3) Any additional uses the Advisory Committee determines is appropriate to
48 promote and develop large animal veterinarians to practice in designated
49 counties.

50 (e) Limitations. – The Advisory Committee shall review applicants on an annual basis to
51 determine eligibility under the criteria developed under subsection (c) of this section. The

1 Advisory Committee shall also review each recipient of grant funds at the end of each fiscal year.
2 A recipient whose veterinary license expires, is revoked, or is suspended during the fiscal year
3 in which the grant is awarded, or who fails to practice large animal veterinary medicine in the
4 designated counties named in the recipient's application, shall repay the amount received from
5 the Fund.

6 (f) Report. – The Agricultural Finance Authority shall report no later than October 1 each
7 year to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic
8 Resources and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly regarding the
9 implementation of this section during the previous fiscal year. The report shall include a list of
10 the recipients of grants from the Fund for the previous fiscal year, the amount of the grants
11 received, how recipients used awarded grant funds, and whether any awarded funds were
12 required to be repaid by recipients."

13 **SECTION 10.1.(c)** The Agricultural Finance Authority, in consultation with the
14 Large Animal Healthcare Enhancement Advisory Committee established by G.S. 106-1073, as
15 enacted by subsection (b) of this section, shall adopt temporary rules to implement this section
16 as soon as practicable and shall concurrently begin adopting permanent rules to replace the
17 temporary rules.

18 **SECTION 10.1.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
19

20 **NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING** 21 **INITIATIVE**

22 **SECTION 10.2.(a)** Findings and Purpose. – The General Assembly finds that the
23 lack of capacity for value-added processing of agricultural commodities near the farms where
24 those commodities are produced in the State creates competitive disadvantages to North Carolina
25 farmers by imposing increased transportation costs to remote commodity processing facilities
26 and presenting economic barriers to farmers who wish to participate in the market for higher
27 profit margin processed food products. The General Assembly further finds that grants to increase
28 agricultural processing opportunities in the State will create jobs and increase local property tax
29 bases in this State; will benefit agricultural and farming operations in the State with decreased
30 costs and increased profit options; and is consistent with promoting agricultural operations, a
31 vital sector of the State's economy. The purpose of this section is to create seed capital to fund
32 and promote the establishment of value-adding agricultural manufacturing and food processing
33 facilities across the State to fill existing gaps in the processing of agricultural products and to
34 create a diverse and economically competitive array of high value-added goods and products
35 manufactured in this State from agricultural products grown or produced in this State.

36 **SECTION 10.2.(b)** Establishment. – There is created within the Department of
37 Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department), the North Carolina Agricultural
38 Manufacturing and Processing Initiative (NCAMPI). Funds allocated to NCAMPI by this section
39 will be used for the following activities:

- 40 (1) Up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) of funds in the first year of
41 the program for the Department to assess the State's agricultural economy with
42 the assistance of independent industry-recognized experts to identify and
43 assess opportunities to increase access to value-added processing of
44 commodities produced in the State and address categorical or geographical
45 gaps in agricultural manufacturing and processing.
- 46 (2) Up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) of the funds provided in
47 each year of the program for the Department to market and recruit agricultural
48 manufacturing and processing facilities to fill identified gaps in access to such
49 facilities by North Carolina farmers based on the assessment described in
50 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

- 1 (3) Remaining NCAMPI funds to provide grants to agricultural manufacturing
2 facilities for site development, infrastructure costs (including water,
3 wastewater, or transportation improvements), building construction or
4 rehabilitation costs, or equipment. New facilities and expansions of existing
5 facilities will be eligible for grants under this subdivision. Before entering into
6 a grant agreement, the Department must find that the total benefits of the
7 project to the State outweigh its costs and render the grant appropriate for the
8 project.

9 **SECTION 10.2.(c)** Administration of Initiative. – In consultation with the nonprofit
10 corporation with which the Department of Commerce contracts pursuant to G.S. 143B-431.01(b),
11 the Department shall develop guidelines related to the administration of NCAMPI. The
12 guidelines shall require a finding that a grant under this section is necessary for the construction
13 or expansion of a facility engaged in agricultural manufacturing and processing in this State. At
14 least 20 days before the effective date of any guidelines or nontechnical amendments to the
15 guidelines, the Department shall publish the proposed guidelines on its website and provide
16 notice to persons who have requested notice of proposed guidelines. In addition, the Department
17 shall accept oral and written comments on the proposed guidelines and shall, in its discretion,
18 consider those comments before finalizing the guidelines. Guidelines adopted under this section
19 shall not be subject to the requirements of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes
20 and shall include all of the following:

- 21 (1) Criteria for evaluating grant applicants, including job creation, concentration
22 of production of the agricultural product the facility will process in proximity
23 to the proposed location, and reductions in transportation costs and estimated
24 damage rates for agricultural products due to greater proximity to the
25 manufacturing or processing facility.
- 26 (2) A system for determining grant eligibility, the amounts of awards, not to
27 exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) per facility, and the required
28 cost-share for grant recipients. The Department may consider the economic
29 development tier of the county of a grant recipient under G.S. 143B-437.08 in
30 setting cost-share amounts.

31 **SECTION 10.2.(d)** Report. – Until all funds allocated by this section have been
32 expended, the Department shall annually report no later than October 1 on NCAMPI activities
33 during the prior fiscal year to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
34 Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division. The report
35 shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

- 36 (1) Total amount of grants awarded.
37 (2) A list of award recipients and the amount awarded to each recipient.
38 (3) Matching funds required.
39 (4) Activities to ready sites and associated costs.
40 (5) Any major employers located at an improved or acquired site.
41 (6) Any unallocated amount for grants remaining in the NCAMPI Fund.
42 (7) Assessment of additional remaining needs for agricultural manufacturing and
43 processing facilities in the State.

44 **SECTION 10.2.(e)** Funding. – Of the funds appropriated from the interest earned in
45 the State Fiscal Recovery Reserve to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the
46 sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and
47 the sum of eight million nine hundred thirty-nine thousand two hundred sixty-five dollars
48 (\$8,939,265) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be used for NCAMPI.
49 Notwithstanding any provision of G.S. 143C-1-2(b) to the contrary, these funds shall not revert
50 at the end of the fiscal year in which they are appropriated but shall remain available for the

1 purposes set forth in this section. The Department may use up to one percent (1%) of the funds
2 allocated by this section for administrative costs of program administration.

3 4 **FARMERS APPRECIATION DAY FUNDS**

5 **SECTION 10.3.** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Agriculture and
6 Consumer Services, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in nonrecurring funds
7 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be used as a directed grant for N.C. Grange Mutual Insurance
8 Company (NC Grange), a nonprofit corporation, to develop a plan to raise awareness of and
9 promote the first annual North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day. These funds shall be
10 disbursed to NC Grange at the discretion of the Department upon the request of NC Grange for
11 that purpose and shall be subject to Section 5.3(b)(4) of this act.

12 13 **ANIMAL WASTE FERTILIZER CONVERSION COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

14 **SECTION 10.4.(a)** Funding. – Funds appropriated in this act to provide a directed
15 grant to the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, shall
16 be used to establish a cost-share program for statewide deployment of processes and technologies
17 developed for conversion of animal waste to fertilizer through the Foundation's Innovative
18 Livestock Waste Management programs.

19 **SECTION 10.4.(b)** Program. – The program shall provide cost-share grants for
20 eligible projects with grant funding limited to one grant for eligible projects associated with any
21 particular liquid animal waste management system. Application processes and criteria for the
22 award of grants shall be determined by the Foundation.

23 **SECTION 10.4.(c)** Cost-Share. – Persons receiving grants under this section shall
24 provide a match in cash or in-kind equivalents equal to one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar
25 (\$1.00) distributed to them from the program.

26 **SECTION 10.4.(d)** Report. – The Foundation shall report no later than October 1 of
27 each year regarding activities funded by this section during the previous fiscal year. The report
28 shall include a list of projects funded, scope and location of each project, and the total quantity
29 of liquid animal waste management system residual sludges converted to fertilizer or other soil
30 additives during that year. The Foundation shall provide a final report no later than October 1,
31 2028, providing the data required by this section for the entire five years of the program.

32 **SECTION 10.4.(e)** Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- 33 (1) Eligible entity. – Any person who owns or operates an anaerobic lagoon or
34 other liquid animal waste management system treating animal waste from a
35 livestock operation that generates sludge suitable for conversion into fertilizer
36 products.
- 37 (2) Eligible project. – Costs associated with the site engineering, permitting,
38 acquisition, or installation of sludge collection and processing equipment
39 needed for production of fertilizers and other soil additives meeting applicable
40 State and federal requirements for use in agricultural operations.
- 41 (3) Foundation. – The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, Inc., a
42 nonprofit corporation.
- 43 (4) Livestock. – Cattle, sheep, swine, goats, farmed cervids, or bison.
- 44 (5) Person. – Any individual, trust, estate, partnership, receiver, association,
45 company, limited liability company, corporation, or other entity or group.
- 46 (6) Program. – The Animal Waste Fertilizer Conversion Cost-Share Program
47 created by this section.

48 **SECTION 10.4.(f)** Reversion. – Funds allocated in this section that are not expended
49 or encumbered by June 30, 2028, shall revert to the General Fund.

1 **SECTION 10.4.(g)** Administrative Expenses. – The Foundation may retain up to
2 four percent (4%) of the funds allocated by this section for its expenses in administering the
3 program.
4

5 **TOBACCO FARM LIFE MUSEUM**

6 **SECTION 10.5.(a)** The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission shall assume from the
7 Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Inc., the ownership and administration of the Tobacco Farm Life
8 Museum in Johnston County.

9 **SECTION 10.5.(b)** Of the funds appropriated from the General Fund to the
10 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, the
11 sum of three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000) in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and
12 three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) in the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be used for the
13 operation, administration, and new positions to staff the Tobacco Farm Life Museum.

14 **SECTION 10.5.(c)** G.S. 143-719 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

15 "(d) Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund. – The Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund
16 (Museum Fund) is created as a special, interest-bearing revenue fund within the Tobacco Trust
17 Fund.

18 (1) Sources of Funding. – Notwithstanding Chapter 146 of the General Statutes,
19 the Fund consists of (i) all revenue derived from donations, gifts, devises,
20 grants, admissions, and fees collected by or for the benefit of the Tobacco
21 Farm Life Museum Fund, (ii) the net proceeds derived from the sale of real
22 property pursuant to G.S. 146-30(d)(15), and (iii) interest on funds in the Fund
23 credited by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-69.2 and G.S. 147-69.3.

24 (2) Uses. – The Fund shall be treated as a special trust fund and may be used to
25 pay costs associated with the operation, interpretation, development,
26 expansion, preservation, and maintenance of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum.

27 (3) Reports. – The chair of the Commission shall include in the report required by
28 G.S. 143-722 a report on the Museum Fund that includes the source and
29 amounts of all funds credited to the Fund and the purpose and amount of all
30 expenditures from the Fund during the prior fiscal year."

31 **SECTION 10.5.(d)** G.S. 146-30 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 146-30. Application of net proceeds.**

33 ...
34 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Subchapter, the following exceptions
35 apply:

36 ...
37 (15) The net proceeds derived from the sale of real property from the Tobacco
38 Farm Life Museum donated to the State and allocated to the Tobacco Trust
39 Fund Commission shall be deposited in the Tobacco Farm Life Museum Fund,
40 created in G.S. 143-719, and shall be used in accordance with that section."

41 **SECTION 10.5.(e)** This section becomes effective only when the Tobacco Farm
42 Life Museum transfers and conveys all of its assets to the State. The Tobacco Trust Fund
43 Commission shall notify the Revisor of Statutes when the transfer is complete. This section
44 expires July 1, 2028.

45 **PART XI. COMMERCE**

46 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS**

47 **SECTION 11.1.(a)** Allocations. – Of the funds appropriated in this act for federal
48 block grant funds, the following allocations are made for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024,
49 and June 30, 2025, according to the following schedule:
50
51

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

1.	State Administration	\$1,560,286
2.	Neighborhood Revitalization	7,521,789
3.	Economic Development	13,482,687
4.	Infrastructure	18,994,905
5.	Rural Community Development	4,748,726

**TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT – 2024 Program Year**

\$46,308,393

2025 Program Year

\$46,308,393.

SECTION 11.1.(b) Availability Reduction. – If federal funds are reduced below the amounts specified in this section after the effective date of this act, then every program in each of these federal block grants shall be reduced by the same percentage as the reduction in federal funds.

SECTION 11.1.(c) Availability Increase. – Any block grant funds appropriated by the Congress of the United States in addition to the funds specified in this section shall be expended as follows: each program category under the Community Development Block Grant shall be increased by the same percentage as the increase in federal funds.

SECTION 11.1.(d) Reallocation. – The Department of Commerce shall consult with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations prior to reallocating Community Development Block Grant Funds. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, whenever the Director of the Budget finds either of the following conditions exist:

- (1) If a reallocation is required because of an emergency that poses an imminent threat to public health or public safety, then the Director of the Budget may authorize the reallocation without consulting the Commission. The Department of Commerce shall report to the Commission on the reallocation no later than 30 days after it was authorized and shall identify in the report the emergency, the type of action taken, and how it was related to the emergency.
- (2) If the State will lose federal block grant funds or receive less federal block grant funds in the next fiscal year unless a reallocation is made, then the Department of Commerce shall provide a written report to the Commission on the proposed reallocation and shall identify the reason that failure to take action will result in the loss of federal funds. If the Commission does not hear the issue within 30 days of receipt of the report, the Department may take the action without consulting the Commission.

SECTION 11.1.(e) Report. – By September 1, 2023, and September 1, 2024, the Department of Commerce shall report to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources; the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources; the chairs of the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee; and the Fiscal Research Division on the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds appropriated in the prior fiscal year. The report shall include the following:

- (1) A discussion of each of the categories of funding, including information on the statewide need in each category.

- 1 (2) Information on the number of applications that were received in each category
2 and the total dollar amount requested in each category.
- 3 (3) A list of grantees, including the grantee's name, county, category under which
4 the grant was funded, the amount awarded, and a narrative description of the
5 project.

6 **SECTION 11.1.(f)** Neighborhood Revitalization. – Funds allocated to the
7 Neighborhood Revitalization Category in subsection (a) of this section shall be made available
8 as grants for eligible activities listed in this subsection. The funds available for grants under this
9 category may be used for all of the following, subject to the national objectives and eligible
10 activities allowed under guidance issued by the United States Department of Housing and Urban
11 Development (HUD):

- 12 (1) Essential repairs to prevent abandonment and deterioration of housing in
13 low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.
- 14 (2) Demolition and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements.
- 15 (3) Public improvements, including parks, streets, sidewalks, and water and sewer
16 lines.

17 **SECTION 11.1.(g)** Economic Development. – Funds allocated to the Economic
18 Development Category in subsection (a) of this section shall be made available as grants for
19 eligible activities listed in this subsection. The funds available for grants under this category may
20 be used for all of the following, subject to the national objectives and eligible activities allowed
21 under guidance issued by HUD:

- 22 (1) Acquisition of real property.
- 23 (2) Demolition and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements.
- 24 (3) Removal of material and architectural barriers.
- 25 (4) Public improvements, including parks, streets, sidewalks, and water and sewer
26 lines.
- 27 (5) Loans and grants to public or private nonprofit entities for construction and
28 rehabilitation activities.
- 29 (6) Assistance to private, for-profit entities for economic development.
- 30 (7) Technical assistance to public or nonprofit entities for neighborhood
31 revitalization or economic development activities.
- 32 (8) Assistance to for-profit and nonprofit entities to facilitate economic
33 development activities.

34 **SECTION 11.1.(h)** Infrastructure. – For purposes of this section, eligible activities
35 under the Infrastructure Category in subsection (a) of this section shall be defined as provided in
36 the HUD State Administered Community Development Block Grant definition of the term
37 "infrastructure." Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, funds allocated
38 to the Infrastructure Category in subsection (a) of this section shall not be reallocated to any other
39 category.

40 **SECTION 11.1.(i)** Rural Community Development. – Funds allocated for the Rural
41 Community Development Category in subsection (a) of this section shall be made available as
42 grants for eligible activities listed in this subsection. These funds shall provide grants that support
43 community development and comprehensive growth projects to be awarded by the Department
44 of Commerce. The Rural Community Development Category will provide grants to units of local
45 government in development tier one and development tier two areas, as defined in
46 G.S. 143B-437.08, and in rural census tracts, as defined in G.S. 143B-472.127(a)(2), in any other
47 area to support projects that promote broad-based community development activities, increased
48 local investment and economic growth, and stronger and more viable rural neighborhoods. In
49 awarding grants under this section, preference shall be given to projects in development tier one
50 areas, as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08. The funds available for grants under this category may be

1 used for all of the following, subject to the national objectives and eligible activities allowed
2 under guidance issued by HUD:

- 3 (1) Essential repairs to prevent abandonment and deterioration of housing in
4 low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.
- 5 (2) Public improvements, including parks, streets, sidewalks, and water and sewer
6 lines.
- 7 (3) Public facilities, including neighborhood and community facilities and
8 facilities for individuals with special needs.
- 9 (4) Public services, including employment, crime prevention, and energy
10 conservation.
- 11 (5) Assistance to private, for-profit entities for economic development.
- 12 (6) Technical assistance to public or nonprofit entities for neighborhood
13 revitalization or economic development activities.
- 14 (7) Assistance to for-profit and nonprofit entities to facilitate economic
15 development activities.

16 **SECTION 11.1.(j)** Deobligated Funds. – Throughout each year, deobligated funds
17 arise in the various funding categories and program years of the Community Development Block
18 Grant (CDBG) program as a result of (i) projects coming in under budget, (ii) projects being
19 cancelled, or (iii) projects being required to repay funds. Surplus federal administrative funds in
20 the CDBG program may vary from year to year based upon the amount of State-appropriated
21 funds allocated and the amount of eligible in-kind funds identified. To allow the Department of
22 Commerce and the Department of Environmental Quality to quickly deploy deobligated and
23 surplus federal administrative funds as they are identified throughout the program year, the
24 following shall apply to the use of deobligated CDBG funds and surplus federal administrative
25 funds:

- 26 (1) All surplus federal administrative funds shall be divided proportionally
27 between the Departments of Commerce and Environmental Quality and shall
28 be used as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection.
- 29 (2) All deobligated funds allocated to the Department of Commerce and any
30 surplus federal administrative funds, as provided for in subdivision (1) of this
31 subsection, may be used by the Department for all of the following:
 - 32 a. To issue grants in the CDBG Economic Development or
33 Neighborhood Revitalization Program Category.
 - 34 b. For providing training and guidance to local governments relative to
35 the CDBG program, its management, and administrative requirements.
 - 36 c. For any other purpose consistent with the Department's administration
37 of the CDBG program if an equal amount of State matching funds is
38 available.
- 39 (3) All deobligated funds allocated to the Department of Environmental Quality
40 and any surplus federal administrative funds, as provided for in subdivision
41 (1) of this subsection, may be used by the Department for all of the following:
 - 42 a. To issue grants in the CDBG Infrastructure Category.
 - 43 b. For any other purpose consistent with the Department's administration
44 of the CDBG program if an equal amount of State matching funds is
45 available.

46 **COMMERCE NONPROFITS/REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

47 **SECTION 11.2.(a)** The entities listed in subsection (b) of this section shall do the
48 following for each year that State funds are expended:

- 49 (1) By September 1 of each year, and more frequently as requested, report to the
50 chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and
51

1 Natural and Economic Resources; the chairs of the House of Representatives
2 Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic
3 Resources; the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture,
4 Natural, and Economic Resources; and the Fiscal Research Division on prior
5 State fiscal year program activities, objectives, and accomplishments and prior
6 State fiscal year itemized expenditures and fund sources. If State funds are
7 used to provide matching funds for competitive grants from the federal
8 government or a nongovernmental entity, the report should include a list and
9 description of the grants that are awarded.

- 10 (2) Provide to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
11 Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources; the chairs of the House of
12 Representatives Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and
13 Economic Resources; the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on
14 Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources; and the Fiscal Research
15 Division a copy of the entity's annual audited financial statement within 30
16 days of issuance of the statement.

17 **SECTION 11.2.(b)** The following entities shall comply with the requirements of
18 subsection (a) of this section:

- 19 (1) North Carolina Biotechnology Center.
20 (2) High Point Market Authority.
21 (3) RTI International.
22

23 NC BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER

24 **SECTION 11.3.(a)** Except for the funds appropriated in subsection (b) of this
25 section, funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Commerce for the North Carolina
26 Biotechnology Center (Center) for each fiscal year in the 2023-2025 biennium shall be allocated
27 for the following purposes in the following proportions:

- 28 (1) Twenty-one percent (21%) for job creation, including funding for the
29 AgBiotech Initiative, economic and industrial development, and related
30 activities.
31 (2) Sixty-five percent (65%) for science and commercialization, including
32 science and technology development, Centers of Innovation, business and
33 technology development, education and training, and related activities.
34 (3) Fourteen percent (14%) for Center operations, including administration,
35 professional and technical assistance and oversight, corporate
36 communications, human resource management, financial and grant
37 administration, legal, and accounting.

38 **SECTION 11.3.(b)** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of
39 Commerce for the Center, five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) of recurring funds in each
40 fiscal year of the biennium shall be used to support funding for early stage loans to North Carolina
41 agricultural technology companies.

42 **SECTION 11.3.(c)** The Center shall not use any of the recurring funds allocated in
43 subsection (b) of this section for administrative costs and shall report on the expenditure of those
44 funds each year pursuant to Section 11.2 of this act.

45 **SECTION 11.3.(d)** The Center shall prioritize funding and distribution of loans over
46 funding and distribution of grants.

47 **SECTION 11.3.(e)** Up to ten percent (10%) of the sum of each of the allocations in
48 subsection (a) of this section may be reallocated to subdivision (a)(1) or subdivision (a)(2) of this
49 section if, in the judgment of Center management, the reallocation will advance the mission of
50 the Center.
51

NC BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER PROFIT SHARING MODIFICATION

SECTION 11.4. The Attorney General's Office and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center (the Center) shall renegotiate the memorandum of understanding entered into pursuant to Section 20.8 of S.L. 2001-424, and its amendments, to provide that the Center is required to pay the State fifty percent (50%) of only those net profits that exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

MODIFICATION FOR GOLDEN LEAF

SECTION 11.5. G.S. 143-712 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-712. Articles of incorporation; reporting.

The Attorney General shall draft articles of incorporation for the Golden LEAF Foundation to enable the Golden LEAF Foundation to carry out its mission as set out in the Consent Decree. The articles of incorporation shall provide for the following:

- (1) ~~Consultation; reporting. — The Golden LEAF Foundation shall consult with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations prior to the board of directors (i) adopting bylaws and (ii) adopting the annual operating budget.~~ Reporting. — The Golden LEAF Foundation shall also report on its programs and activities to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, and the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee on or before September 15 of each fiscal year and more frequently as requested by any of these entities. The report shall include all of the following information:
- a. Grants made in the prior fiscal year, including the amount, term, and purpose of the grant.
 - b. Outcome data collected by the Golden LEAF Foundation, including the number of jobs created.
 - c. Cumulative grant data by program and by county.
 - d. Unaudited actual administrative expenses and grants made in the prior fiscal year.
 - e. Current fiscal year budget, planned activities, and goals for the current fiscal year.

The Golden LEAF Foundation shall also provide to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee an itemized report of its administrative expenses for the previous fiscal year by September 15 of each year, a copy of its annual audited financial statement for the previous fiscal year within 30 days of having received an audit report from an independent auditor, and a copy of its annual federal income tax return for the previous fiscal year within 30 days of filing.

- (1a) Amendment of articles of incorporation. — The Golden LEAF Foundation may periodically amend its articles of incorporation to maintain conformity with the provisions of this Article and any other act of the General Assembly. Subject to the conditions set forth in G.S. 55A-10-02, 55A-10-05, 120-76.1, and Article XIV of the Articles of Incorporation, the Golden LEAF Foundation shall consult with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations prior to submitting articles of amendment to the Secretary of State.

...."

NASCAR ALL-STAR RACE FUNDING CLARIFICATION

1 SECTION 11.8.(a) Funds appropriated in this act from the interest in the State Fiscal
2 Recovery Reserve to the Department of Commerce for the NASCAR All-Star Race at the North
3 Wilkesboro Speedway, LLC, may be used for repairs, renovations, and other capital
4 improvements at the speedway if the Department enters into an agreement with the grant recipient
5 to host (i) the 2023 NASCAR All-Star Race and (ii) one additional NASCAR Series race at the
6 speedway before the end of the 2028 race season. These funds may be used by the grant recipient
7 to cover expenditures made prior to the effective date of this act.

8 SECTION 11.8.(b) If the grant recipient receives funds pursuant to subsection (a)
9 of this section but does not host (i) the 2023 NASCAR All-Star Race and (ii) one additional
10 NASCAR Series race at the speedway before the end of the 2028 race season, the grant recipient
11 must forfeit the grant awarded under this section and is liable for the amounts received.

12 NCINNOVATION

13 SECTION 11.9. Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
14 Article to read:

15 "Article 76B.

16 "NCInnovation.

17 "§ 143-728. NCInnovation.

18 (a) Findings. – The General Assembly of North Carolina finds the following:

- 19 (1) North Carolina is competing with other states for the ability to commercialize
20 innovations resulting from in-State, world-class educational and research
21 entities.
- 22 (2) The State has opportunities for greater job growth and economic prosperity,
23 particularly in rural areas, by fully optimizing the commercialization of
24 innovations sourced to this State.
- 25 (3) These opportunities include the creation of new jobs and companies both from
26 university-based research and other in-State research resulting in products that
27 have commercial potential.
- 28 (4) Other states have successfully used a public-private partnership model to
29 create jobs from innovation efforts, to accelerate commercial opportunities
30 from innovation efforts, especially from public universities, and to support the
31 commercial growth and scale of emerging technologies.
- 32 (5) North Carolina will benefit from similar efforts to accelerate
33 commercialization of theoretical and applied science and inventions stemming
34 from the efforts and activities of its educational facilities and other resident
35 research entities.

36 (b) Purpose. – The purpose of this section is to establish a framework whereby the State
37 may provide funds to NCInnovation, which shall hold the funds for the benefit of the State to
38 develop a network of regional innovation hubs, to incentivize applied research opportunities, and
39 to support the commercial growth and scale of emerging technologies to promote the welfare of
40 the people of the State and to maximize the economic growth in the State through expansion of
41 both (i) the State's high technology research and development capabilities and (ii) the State's
42 product and process innovation and commercialization.

43 (c) Endowment. – NCInnovation is approved to receive funds from the State for the
44 purposes and on the terms and conditions set forth in this Article.

45 (d) Requirements. – In order to receive and retain the endowment, all of the following
46 requirements must be met:

- 47 (1) NCInnovation shall adhere to the following governance provisions related to
48 its governing board:
 - 49 a. The board shall be composed of 13 voting members as follows: four
50 members appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation
51

1 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, four members
2 appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the
3 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the remaining members
4 elected as provided in the bylaws of NCInnovation. The directors shall
5 hold staggered four-year terms and shall elect their own chair from
6 among their number. Appointing and electing authorities shall ensure
7 that appointed and elected members have expertise and experience in
8 one or more of the following areas: research, development, product
9 commercialization, entrepreneurial business development, and capital
10 formation.

11 b. NCInnovation shall comply with the limitations on lobbying set forth
12 in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

13 c. No State employee or elected official may serve on the board.

14 d. The board shall meet at least quarterly at the call of its chair.

15 e. The amount of State funds that may be used for the annual salary of
16 any one officer or employee of NCInnovation shall not exceed the
17 greater of (i) one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000), (ii) the
18 amount most recently set by the General Assembly in a Current
19 Operations Appropriations Act, or (iii) a salary in excess of the
20 amounts provided in this sub-subdivision, provided that the salary is
21 supported by documentation of comparable salaries in comparable
22 operations, the salary is approved by the board, the salary is included
23 in the report required to be filed pursuant to this section, and the excess
24 is paid out of private funds of NCInnovation until such funds are
25 exhausted prior to paying out of other funds, including State funds.
26 Members of the board may not be compensated for their services but
27 may, in the sole discretion of the board, be reimbursed for any or all
28 reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings of the board or any
29 committee thereof or otherwise in carrying out the purposes and
30 requirements of this Article.

31 (2) NCInnovation shall amend its articles of incorporation to enable
32 NCInnovation to carry out the purposes and requirements of this Article. The
33 articles of incorporation, as amended, shall provide for the following:

34 a. Consultation; reporting. – NCInnovation shall consult with the Joint
35 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations prior to the
36 board of directors adopting any amendment to its bylaws.
37 NCInnovation shall also report on its programs and activities to the
38 Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the
39 Fiscal Research Division on or before September 15 of each fiscal year
40 and more frequently as requested by any of these entities. The report
41 shall include all of the following information:

42 1. Every investment, equity stake acquired, or other funding
43 award of any kind made in furtherance of the purposes of
44 NCInnovation in the prior fiscal year. This information shall
45 include, at a minimum, the amount, term, and purpose of the
46 award.

47 2. Outcome data collected by NCInnovation, including the
48 number of jobs created.

49 3. Cumulative investment, equity stake information, and other
50 funding award data by program and by county.

- 1 4. An unaudited report, itemized by category, of its overhead and
- 2 administrative costs for the previous fiscal year.
- 3 5. Current fiscal year budget, planned activities, and goals for the
- 4 current fiscal year.
- 5 6. Developed performance metrics of entities in which
- 6 NCInnovation has taken an equity stake or to which
- 7 NCInnovation has made a funding award or other investment,
- 8 including any returns on investment.
- 9 7. A detailed explanation of how annual salaries are determined,
- 10 including base pay schedules and any additional salary
- 11 amounts or bonuses that may be earned as a result of job
- 12 performance. The explanation shall include the means used by
- 13 NCInnovation to foster employee efforts in rural and
- 14 low-income areas in the State.
- 15 NCInnovation shall also provide to the Joint Legislative Commission
- 16 on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division a copy
- 17 of its annual audited financial statement for the previous fiscal year
- 18 within 30 days of having received an audit report from an independent
- 19 auditor and a copy of its annual federal income tax return for the
- 20 previous fiscal year within 30 days of filing. In addition, the State
- 21 Auditor may perform audits of NCInnovation pursuant to Article 5A
- 22 of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes to ensure that funds are being
- 23 managed in accordance with the provisions of this Article.
- 24 b. Disposal of State funds. – NCInnovation shall not dispose of State
- 25 funds pursuant to G.S. 55A-12-02 without the approval of the General
- 26 Assembly.
- 27 c. Charter repeal. – The charter of NCInnovation may be repealed at any
- 28 time by the General Assembly pursuant to Section 1 of Article VIII of
- 29 the North Carolina Constitution. NCInnovation shall not amend its
- 30 articles of incorporation without the approval of the General
- 31 Assembly.
- 32 d. Dissolution. – NCInnovation may be dissolved pursuant to Chapter
- 33 55A of the General Statutes or by the General Assembly. Upon
- 34 dissolution, all (i) remaining, unencumbered State funds together with
- 35 simple interest of one and one-half percent (1.5%) per annum on the
- 36 beginning balance of State funds, such simple interest to stop accruing
- 37 after 10 years, and (ii) unencumbered assets acquired with State funds
- 38 and then owned by NCInnovation shall be transferred to the General
- 39 Fund.
- 40 (3) NCInnovation performs its duties for the benefit of the State. NCInnovation
- 41 shall, at a minimum, perform the duties listed in this subdivision. Where those
- 42 duties involve the distribution of State funds, NCInnovation may consult with
- 43 the North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory), established under
- 44 G.S. 116-255, for purposes of making determinations regarding terms and
- 45 amounts of distributions and shall use the Collaboratory to manage the
- 46 distributions.
- 47 a. Assist in targeting applied scientific research and development
- 48 conducted by colleges and universities and community colleges in the
- 49 State. NCInnovation may enter into contracts with the Board of
- 50 Governors of The University of North Carolina and the State Board of
- 51 Community Colleges for purposes of assigning intellectual property

- 1 and resources to assist in development and activities or to facilitate
2 faculty and staff assisting NCInnovation, as needed.
- 3 b. Assist in commercializing results and products stemming from the
4 efforts listed in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision.
- 5 c. Foster the creation of, and sustainment of, businesses throughout all
6 regions of the State undertaking operations based on the
7 commercialization stemming from sub-subdivision b. of this
8 subdivision.
- 9 d. Otherwise (i) identify other products of research and development
10 with significant commercial potential outside of this State that are
11 underutilized or underfunded and to recruit the entities responsible for
12 such products to this State and (ii) assist early-stage and start-up
13 businesses in the State with innovations with commercial potential
14 when those businesses are not affiliated with State educational
15 institutions.
- 16 e. Build long-term entrepreneurial capacity and facilitate the increase of
17 venture capital funding availability in the State.
- 18 f. Facilitate the creation of pathways to follow-on financing in the State.
- 19 g. Engage in other activities primarily intended to otherwise provide
20 resources and funding to create and operate regional networks, support
21 university-funded research and applications, fund cooperative award
22 agreements, increase capital for accelerating commercialized
23 innovation, and support the growth of business operations resulting
24 from these efforts.
- 25 h. Protect the use of State funds by requiring that, at a minimum, the
26 recipient continues activity in this State at a level sufficient and for a
27 time period, not less than five years, to ensure that the benefit to the
28 State outweighs the cost of support. In addition, NCInnovation shall,
29 as a condition of distributing State funds, require the recipient to (i)
30 have its headquarters and principal place of business in the State and
31 (ii) be incorporated in this State.
- 32 (4) NCInnovation shall contract with an independent investment manager to
33 handle activities related to managing State funds. The contract shall establish
34 the investment manager's compensation, including any management fee,
35 which may not exceed a commercially reasonable amount. The investment
36 manager shall disclose to NCInnovation any interest that it or an owner,
37 stockholder, partner, officer, director, member, employee, or agent of the
38 investment manager has in a recipient of State funds or other support from
39 NCInnovation to the extent the investment manager is aware of such
40 recipients. NCInnovation may draw from, distribute, and otherwise expend
41 State funds, including, without limitation, to make investments, in accordance
42 with this Article, and such activities are subject to the reporting requirements
43 of this Article. The activities and investments of the investment manager are
44 not subject to the reporting requirements of this Article.
- 45 (5) NCInnovation shall have received from fundraising efforts and sources, other
46 than the endowment or other funds from the State, commitments to donate at
47 least twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) in private funds for support of
48 its operations. The minimum commitment amount required by this
49 subdivision must be received within five years of the receipt of the
50 endowment.

- 1 (6) NCInnovation shall adopt and provide to the Joint Legislative Commission on
2 Governmental Operations a resolution or policy regarding conflicts of interest
3 to guide actions by the governing board members, officers, and employees of
4 NCInnovation in the performance of their duties and to prevent such persons
5 from benefiting from or holding an equity position in any intellectual property,
6 licensing, or business entity supported or funded by NCInnovation. The
7 conflict of interest policy shall contain, at a minimum, that no subject person
8 of NCInnovation may take any official action or use the subject person's
9 official position to profit in any manner the subject person, the subject person's
10 immediate family, a business with which the subject person or the subject
11 person's immediate family has a business association, or a client of the subject
12 person or the subject person's immediate family with whom the subject
13 person, or the subject person's immediate family, has an existing business
14 relationship. No subject person shall attempt to profit from a proposed project
15 lead if the profit is greater than that which would be realized by other persons
16 living in the area where the project lead is located. If the profit under this
17 subdivision would be greater for the subject person than other persons living
18 in the area where the project lead is located, not only shall the subject person
19 abstain from voting on that issue, but, once the conflict of interest is apparent,
20 the subject person shall not discuss the project lead with any other subject
21 person except to state that a conflict of interest exists. Under this subdivision,
22 a subject person is presumed to profit if the profit would be realized by the
23 subject person, the subject person's immediate family, a business with which
24 the subject person or the subject person's immediate family has a business
25 association, or a client of the subject person or the subject person's immediate
26 family with whom the subject person, or the subject person's immediate family
27 has an existing business relationship with a company that is the subject of a
28 proposed project lead. No subject person, in contemplation of official action
29 by the subject person, or in reliance on information that was made known to
30 the subject person in the subject person's official capacity and that has not
31 been made public, shall (i) acquire a pecuniary interest in any property,
32 transaction, or enterprise or gain any pecuniary benefit that may be affected
33 by such information or official action or (ii) intentionally aid another to do
34 any of the above acts. As used in this subdivision, the following terms mean:
35 a. Board. – The governing board of NCInnovation.
36 b. Board member. – A member of the board.
37 c. Business association. – A director, employee, officer, or partner of a
38 business entity, or owner of more than ten percent (10%) interest in
39 any business entity.
40 d. Immediate family. – Spouse, children, parents, brothers, and sisters.
41 e. Official action. – Actions taken in connection with the subject person's
42 duties, including, but not limited to, voting on matters before the
43 board, discussing investment matters with other subject persons in an
44 effort to further the matter after the conflict of interest has been
45 discovered, or taking actions in the course and scope of the position as
46 a subject person and actions leading to or resulting in profit.
47 f. Profit. – Receive monetary or economic gain or benefit, including an
48 increase in value whether or not recognized by sale or trade.
49 g. Subject person. – A board member, officer, or employee of
50 NCInnovation.

- 1 (7) NCInnovation adopts and publishes a resolution or policy regarding gifts to
2 guide actions by the governing board members, officers, and employees of
3 NCInnovation in the performance of their duties. The gift policy required by
4 this subdivision shall, at a minimum, prohibit an employee, officer, or member
5 of the board of NCInnovation from knowingly accepting a gift from a person
6 whom the employee, officer, or member of the board knows or has reason to
7 know (i) is seeking to do business of any kind in the State or (ii) has financial
8 interests that may be substantially and materially affected, in a manner
9 distinguishable from the public generally, by the performance or
10 nonperformance of official duties of the employee, officer, or member of the
11 board. This prohibition shall not apply to either of the following:
12 a. Gifts given to the employee, officer, or member of the board where the
13 gift is food or beverages, transportation, lodging, entertainment, or
14 related expenses associated with responsibilities or duties the
15 employee, officer, or member of the board is responsible for
16 conducting on behalf of NCInnovation, provided (i) the employee,
17 officer, or member of the board did not solicit the gift and did not
18 accept the gift in exchange for the performance or nonperformance of
19 corporate duties and (ii) the employee, officer, or member of the board
20 reports electronically to the corporation within 30 days of receipt of
21 the gift, including a description and value of the gift and a description
22 of how the gift contributed to responsibilities or duties on behalf of
23 NCInnovation.
24 b. Gifts of personal property valued at less than one hundred dollars
25 (\$100.00) given to the employee, officer, or member of the board in
26 the commission of corporate duties if the gift is given as a personal gift
27 in another country as part of an overseas trade mission and the giving
28 and receiving of such personal gifts is considered a customary protocol
29 in the other country.
30 (8) NCInnovation shall maintain separate accounting records for and separate
31 accounts for State funds and private funds and shall not commingle State
32 funds and private funds. NCInnovation shall maintain records and accounts
33 according to generally accepted accounting principles.
34 (9) NCInnovation shall limit the use of State funds for the severance pay of the
35 chief executive officer and other officers of the nonprofit corporation to no
36 more than the salary limitation contained in subdivision (1) of this subsection.
37 (10) NCInnovation complies with the following with respect to State funds:
38 a. Returns, rights, and earnings of any kind received after and resulting
39 from investment or use of the endowment shall be used for the same
40 purposes for which the endowment may be used.
41 b. Funds shall not be used to hire a lobbyist.
42 c. No more than one percent (1%) of State funds may be used for
43 overhead and administrative costs. NCInnovation shall prioritize the
44 use of private funds for overhead and administrative costs to the extent
45 practicable.
46 (11) An officer, employee, or member of a governing board of NCInnovation is
47 not a State employee, is not covered by Chapter 126 of the General Statutes,
48 and is not entitled to State-funded employee benefits, including membership
49 in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the State Health
50 Plan for Teachers and State Employees.

1 (e) Public Records; Open Meetings. – NCInnovation is not subject to the Open Meetings
 2 Law as provided in Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes and the Public Records
 3 Act as provided in Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

4 (f) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this Article:

5 (1) Endowment. – Funds provided to NCInnovation by the State upon meeting
 6 the requirements set forth in this section.

7 (2) NCInnovation. – NCInnovation, Inc., a North Carolina nonprofit corporation
 8 under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, provided it has its
 9 headquarters and principal place of business in the State and meets the
 10 requirements of this section necessary to receive and retain the endowment.

11 (3) State funds. – The endowment and future funds received from the State."

12 **EDPNC MARKETING FUNDING EXTENSION**

13 **SECTION 11.10.** Section 11.4(b) of S.L. 2022-74 reads as rewritten:

14 "SECTION 11.4.(b) There is appropriated from the Economic Development Project
 15 Reserve established in Section 2.2 of S.L. 2021-180 to the Department of Commerce for the
 16 nonprofit corporation with which the Department contracts pursuant to G.S. 143B-431.01(b) the
 17 sum of sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) to be used for the following purposes in the following
 18 amounts:
 19 amounts:

20 (1) Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) for travel and tourism marketing of the
 21 State.

22 (2) Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) for business marketing of the State.

23 Of the funds allocated in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, the nonprofit corporation
 24 shall use no more than twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for each purpose by June 30, 2023,
 25 and the remainder of the funds allocated by this section by ~~December 31, 2024.~~ June 30, 2025.
 26 The nonprofit corporation may use up to three percent (3%) of the total funds allocated in this
 27 section for administrative costs."
 28

29 **MODIFICATIONS TO MEGASITES PROGRAM**

30 **SECTION 11.11.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of
 31 Commerce for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the nonrecurring sum of ten million dollars
 32 (\$10,000,000) shall be allocated to the North Carolina Megasite Fund established in Section
 33 11.11(b) of S.L. 2022-74 to be used to support local governments or a partnership of local
 34 governments in conducting due diligence as described in subdivision (4a) of Section 11.11(a) of
 35 S.L. 2022-74, as amended by subsection (b) of this section.

36 **SECTION 11.11.(b)** Section 11.11 of S.L. 2022-74 reads as rewritten:

37 **"MEGASITES READINESS PROGRAM**

38 "SECTION 11.11.(a) Purpose. – It is in the best economic and developmental interests of
 39 the State to support the development of megasites to ensure the State's ongoing competitiveness
 40 for major manufacturing opportunities, ~~including~~ including, but not limited to, the aerospace,
 41 automotive, clean energy, food processing, semiconductor, and life science industries. The
 42 purpose of this section is to establish a competitive grant program serving to do the following:

43 (1) Identify and evaluate up to ~~five~~ seven megasites for preferred development
 44 and marketing.

45 (2) ~~Enable~~ Assist local governments or a partnership of local governments ~~to~~
 46 ~~acquire~~ in the acquisition of a newly identified or existing megasite.

47 (3) Support local governments or a partnership of local governments to ~~install~~
 48 analyze, plan, install, or upgrade public infrastructure, including publicly
 49 owned water, gas, and sewer systems, transportation infrastructure, and the
 50 electrical utility lines necessary to meet the needs of prospective employers
 51 for megasites.

- 1 (4) Support local governments or a partnership of local governments to fund
- 2 on-site preparation, including clearing, grading, or other related expenses for
- 3 megasites.
- 4 (4a) Support local governments or a partnership of local governments in
- 5 conducting due diligence, including, but not limited to, the following: site
- 6 characteristics, preliminary engineering reports for water and wastewater
- 7 provision to the site, assessments related to road and highway infrastructure
- 8 to serve the site, and other assessments as needed.
- 9 (5) Facilitate coordination between the economic development ~~entities and~~
- 10 ~~entities,~~ the North Carolina Department of Environmental ~~Quality~~ Quality,
- 11 and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to expedite any
- 12 ~~environmental~~ needs related to timely site development.

13 ...
 14 **"SECTION 11.11.(d)** Allocation. – EDPNC shall allocate monies in the Fund on the
 15 following basis:

- 16 (1) The first one million dollars (\$1,000,000) appropriated to the Fund shall be
- 17 allocated for engaging a national site selection firm through a competitive bid
- 18 process to produce a report evaluating sites in the State and determining the
- 19 five ~~seven~~ megasites best positioned for advanced manufacturing site
- 20 selection searches conducted by major employers. Amounts allocated under
- 21 this subdivision in excess of what is required after the competitive bid process
- 22 shall be allocated to expand the evaluation to include sites in this State less
- 23 than 1,000 acres that are best positioned for industrial development.
- 24 (2) All other funds appropriated to the Fund for local government grants shall be
- 25 allocated for the acquisition of activities outlined in subdivisions (a)(2)
- 26 through (a)(5) of this section for megasites determined pursuant to subdivision
- 27 (1) of this subsection. A grant for a megasite is limited to eighty five percent
- 28 (85%) of the lesser of the property's purchase price or tax value. The
- 29 percentage actually provided in the grant shall be determined by EDPNC
- 30 based EDPNC shall prioritize local government grants that have the greatest
- 31 potential to reduce the time for site readiness and reduce the risk of unforeseen
- 32 conditions that could affect the site viability for advanced manufacturing
- 33 projects. EDPNC shall base the grant amount on total development needs for
- 34 the megasite, prior investment in the megasite by one or more local
- 35 governments, the ability of one or more local governments to invest in the
- 36 megasite, and the ability and level of participation promised by the local
- 37 government in exchange for a grant from the Fund. Monies may only be
- 38 granted for, and used to acquire, a megasite for which (i) one or more local
- 39 governments have a binding option or offer to purchase and (ii) all basic due
- 40 diligence ~~must be complete,~~ has been completed, including, but not limited to,
- 41 boundary surveys, title searches, State Historic Preservation Office reviews,
- 42 and wetlands delineation.

43 **"SECTION 11.11.(e)** Matching Funds. – ~~The~~ If a grant is awarded that includes site
 44 acquisition assistance, the local governments to which a grant is awarded shall provide the
 45 remainder of the cost of purchasing the megasite not provided by the grant.
 46"
 47

48 **SHELLFISH GROWERS LOAN PROGRAM MODIFICATION**

49 **SECTION 11.13.(a)** G.S. 113-211 reads as rewritten:

50 **"§ 113-211. Shellfish Growers Loan Program.**

- 51 (a) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) Applicable federal rate. – The minimum interest rate that the Internal Revenue Service sets and adjusts monthly for private loans.
- (1a) Department. – The Department of Commerce.
- (2) Governmental crop insurance. – Insurance coverage through the United States Department of Agriculture Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.
- (3) ~~Prime rate.~~—~~The interest rate that a commercial bank holds out as its lowest rate for a loan with less than a 36-month term to its most creditworthy borrowers.~~

(b) Program. – There is established the Shellfish Growers Loan Program to be administered by the Rural Center. The program shall provide a revolving source of low-interest working capital and equipment loans to emerging and existing small shellfish growers in this State. Funds credited to the program are available in perpetuity and must be used only to provide loans to eligible businesses or for administrative expenses as allowed in this section.

(c) Loans. – The following shall apply to the program and loans made under the program:

- (1) A loan provided under the program shall have a fixed interest rate that is equal to the ~~prime~~ applicable federal rate plus two and one-quarter percent (2.25%) and shall be amortized over the term of the loan. For the purposes of each loan, the qualifying lender shall use the applicable federal interest rate that aligns with the term of the loan and shall match the applicable federal rate for the month in which the qualifying business receives the loan.

(2) A working capital loan shall have a term of at least 12 months and shall not exceed ~~24~~ 72 months.

(3) An equipment loan shall have a term of at least 12 months and shall not exceed ~~60~~ 72 months.

(7) Loans are made pursuant to an agreement with a qualifying business that includes at least the following:

e. A provision requiring proof that the qualifying business ~~possesses current~~ has submitted a completed application for governmental crop insurance to protect from disasters.

f. A provision allowing for losses from disasters in excess of governmental crop insurance coverage on loans made to the qualifying business to be covered by the program funds up to the remaining unpaid principal loaned to the qualifying business but not repaid at the time of the loss.

...."

SECTION 11.13.(b) The qualifying lender shall seek to renegotiate the interest rate for any loans already disbursed or agreed to regarding loans that are already issued on or before the date this section becomes law, if the new interest rate at that time is lower than the interest rate currently agreed to between the qualifying lender and qualifying business.

SECTION 11.13.(c) This section is effective when it becomes law.

NC INNOVATION COUNCIL MODIFICATION

SECTION 11.14.(a) G.S. 169-4(a) reads as rewritten:

"§ 169-4. North Carolina Innovation Council established.

(a) The North Carolina Innovation Council (Innovation Council or Council) is established. The Innovation Council shall be administratively housed in the Department of Commerce. The purpose of the Innovation Council is to support innovation, investment, and job

1 creation within North Carolina by encouraging participation in the regulatory sandbox. The
2 Council is empowered to set standards, principles, guidelines, and policy priorities for the types
3 of innovations that the regulatory sandbox program will support. The Council shall be
4 responsible for admission into the regulatory sandbox program and for assigning selected
5 participants to the applicable State agency."

6 **SECTION 11.14.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
7

8 **PART XII. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

9

10 **REDIRECT CERTAIN PRIOR WATER AND WASTEWATER FUNDS**

11 **SECTION 12.2A.** Funds allocated to the Town of Norwood for the expansion of
12 Lake Tillery by subdivision (a)(3a) of Section 12.13 of S.L. 2021-180, as enacted by subsection
13 6.1(a) of S.L. 2022-6, shall instead be provided to Montgomery County as a construction grant
14 for a water or wastewater project. The limits set forth in G.S. 159G-36(c)(3) shall not apply to
15 grants awarded from funds allocated by this subsection. Funds allocated by this subdivision in
16 excess of the amounts needed to complete these projects shall revert to the Drinking Water
17 Reserve and the Wastewater Reserve and may be used for other eligible projects for the purposes
18 set forth in subdivisions (2) through (3a) of G.S. 159G-34(a) and subdivisions (2) through (3a)
19 of G.S. 159G-33(a).
20

21 **VIABLE UTILITY RESERVE GRANT CRITERIA**

22 **SECTION 12.3.** G.S. 159G-35(c) reads as rewritten:

23 "(c) Viable Utility Reserve. – The Local Government Commission and the Authority shall
24 jointly develop evaluation criteria for grants from the Viable Utility Reserve. Criteria shall also
25 be developed concerning distressed units for which the Local Government Commission has
26 exercised its authority under Article 11 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes to assume control,
27 in whole or in part, of the financial affairs of an applicant. These evaluation criteria shall be used
28 to review applications and award grants as provided in G.S. 159G-39."
29

30 **PROHIBIT CAP AND TRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR CO2 EMISSIONS**

31 **SECTION 12.5.(a)** Article 21B of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended
32 by adding a new section to read:

33 **"§ 143-215.107E. Prohibit cap and trade requirements for carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.**

34 Neither the Governor, nor any of the agencies of the State, including the Utilities
35 Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Environmental Management
36 Commission, may require an electric public utility, as defined in G.S. 62-126.3(7), or persons
37 who operate an electric generating facility the primary purpose of which is for the person's own
38 use and not for the primary purpose of producing electricity for sale to or for the public for
39 compensation, to participate in a program that requires such utilities to obtain allowances to offset
40 their CO2 emissions, commonly characterized as emissions cap-and-trade programs, CO2 budget
41 trading programs, or cap-and-invest initiatives. In addition, the Governor and the Department are
42 expressly prohibited from entering into any agreement with other states obligating North
43 Carolina's participation in any program requiring acquisition of allowances to offset CO2
44 emissions by such utilities."

45 **SECTION 12.5.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
46

47 **PROHIBITION ON STATE OR REGIONAL EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR NEW** 48 **MOTOR VEHICLES**

49 **SECTION 12.6.(a)** Article 21B of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended
50 by adding a new section to read:

51 **"§ 143-215.107F. Prohibit requirements for control of emissions from new motor vehicles.**

1 Notwithstanding any authorization granted under 42 U.S.C. § 7507, no agency of the State,
2 including the Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Management
3 Commission, the Department of Transportation, or the Department of Administration, may adopt
4 and enforce standards relating to control of emissions from new motor vehicles or new motor
5 vehicle engines, including requirements that mandate the sale or purchase of "zero-emission
6 vehicles," or electric vehicles as defined in G.S. 20-4.01. The prohibitions of this section shall
7 not be construed to effect requirements for the vehicle emissions testing and maintenance
8 program established pursuant to G.S. 143-215.107A."

9 **SECTION 12.6.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

10 **REDUCE EMISSIONS INSPECTIONS REQUIREMENTS**

11 **SECTION 12.7.(a)** G.S. 20-183.2(b) reads as rewritten:

12 "(b) Emissions. – A motor vehicle is subject to an emissions inspection in accordance with
13 this Part if it meets all of the following requirements:

14 ...

15 ~~(3) It is (i) a vehicle with a model year within 20 years of the current year and~~
16 ~~older than the three most recent model years or (ii) a vehicle with a model year~~
17 ~~within 20 years of the current year and has 70,000 miles or more on its~~
18 ~~odometer.~~

19 (3a) It is a vehicle with a model year within 20 years of the current year and earlier
20 than the 2017 model year.

21"

22 **SECTION 12.7.(b)** G.S. 143-215.107A(c) reads as rewritten:

23 "(c) Counties Covered. – Motor vehicle emissions inspections shall be performed in ~~the~~
24 ~~following counties: Alamance, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Cumberland, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth,~~
25 ~~Franklin, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Johnston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Randolph,~~
26 ~~Rowan, Union, and Wake.~~Mecklenburg County."

27 **SECTION 12.7.(c)** No later than December 31, 2023, the Department of
28 Environmental Quality shall prepare and submit to the United States Environmental Protection
29 Agency for approval by that agency a proposed North Carolina State Implementation Plan
30 amendment based on the change to the motor vehicle emissions testing program provided in this
31 section.

32 **SECTION 12.7.(d)** Subsections (a) and (b) of this section become effective on the
33 first day of a month that is 60 days after the Secretary of the Department of Environmental
34 Quality certifies to the Revisor of Statutes that the United States Environmental Protection
35 Agency has approved an amendment to the North Carolina State Implementation Plan submitted
36 as required by subsection (c) of this section and applies to motor vehicles inspected, or due to be
37 inspected, on or after that date. The Secretary shall provide this notice of approval along with the
38 effective date of this section on its website and by written or electronic notice to emissions
39 inspection mechanic license holders, emissions inspection station licensees, and self-inspector
40 licensees in the county where motor vehicle emissions inspection requirements are removed by
41 this section. The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

42 **DAM SAFETY EMERGENCY FUND/OVERTOPPING STUDIES**

43 **SECTION 12.8.** G.S. 143-215.32A reads as rewritten:

44 **"§ 143-215.32A. Dam Safety Emergency Fund.**

45 (a) Establishment; Purpose. – There is established the Dam Safety Emergency Fund
46 within the Department, as set forth in this section. The Fund shall be used to defray expenses
47 incurred by the Department in developing and implementing an emergency dam safety remedial
48 ~~plan.~~plan and assessing overtopping risk for high hazard and intermediate hazard dams.

1 (b) Eligible Expenses. – The Fund may be used for ~~expenses incurred in developing the~~
2 following expenses:

3 (1) Developing and implementing an emergency dam safety remedial plan that
4 has been approved by the Department, including expenses incurred to contract
5 with any third party for services related to plan development or
6 implementation.

7 (2) Performing overtopping studies for dams categorized by the Department as
8 high hazard or intermediate hazard for which the Department currently has no
9 or inadequate overtopping risk information.

10 (c) Conditions for Use. – These funds shall be used upon the Department's determination
11 that sufficient funds or corrective action cannot be obtained from other sources without incurring
12 a delay that would significantly increase the threat to life or risk of damage to property or the
13 environment.

14 (d) Cost Recovery. – Costs of site investigation and the development and implementation
15 of an emergency dam safety remedial plan, including attorney's fees and other expenses of
16 bringing the cost recovery action, may be recovered from the owners of the dam by appropriate
17 legal action by the Commission. Funds recovered pursuant to this subsection shall be used to
18 reimburse the Dam Safety Emergency Fund.

19 (e) Standards for Funded Activities. – Emergency dam safety remedial plan development
20 and implementation activities and overtopping studies shall be conducted in accordance with
21 standards set forth in G.S. 143-215.29."
22

23 DISCHARGES OF HIGHLY TREATED WASTEWATER

24 SECTION 12.9.(a) G.S. 143-215.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

25 "(c8) Permitted Discharges of Highly Treated Domestic Wastewater. –

26 (1) Subject only to the limitations set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection,
27 the Department shall authorize permitted discharges of highly treated
28 domestic wastewater to surface waters of the State, including wetlands,
29 perennial streams, and unnamed tributaries of named and classified streams
30 where the 7Q10 flow or 30Q2 flow of the receiving waterbody is estimated to
31 be low flow or zero flow, as determined by the United States Geological
32 Survey, from wastewater treatment systems capable of meeting the following
33 water quality-based effluent limitations:

34 a. Biological oxygen demand (BOD₅), 5mg/L.

35 b. NH₃, 0.5mg/L monthly average, 1.0 mg/L daily maximum.

36 c. Total nitrogen, 4mg/L monthly average.

37 d. Total phosphorus, 1.0mg/L monthly average, 2.0mg/L daily
38 maximum.

39 e. Fecal coliforms, 14 colonies/100mL.

40 f. Dissolved oxygen, 6mg/L, or 1mg/L more than the BOD₅
41 concentration.

42 g. Turbidity, 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

43 h. Total suspended solids, 5mg/L monthly average.

44 i. Nitrate, 1mg/L monthly average.

45 (2) In addition to the requirements set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection,
46 only the following requirements shall apply to wastewater discharges to be
47 authorized pursuant to this subsection:

48 a. No discharge shall be permitted to classified shellfish waters or
49 outstanding resource waters. Discharges to unnamed tributaries of
50 classified shellfish waters, however, shall be authorized in compliance
51 with the requirements of this section.

- 1 b. The limitation of flow for any wastewater discharge shall be no more
2 than one-tenth of the flow generated by the one-year, 24-hour storm
3 event given the drainage area and calculated using the rational method.
4 The rational method shall be used to calculate the peak runoff for the
5 one-year, 24-hour precipitation event in cubic foot per second. The
6 peak runoff shall then be divided by 10 and multiplied by 646,272 to
7 convert the result to gallons per day of allowable discharge at the point
8 studied.
- 9 c. Discharges shall be limited based on the ability of the receiving waters
10 to hydraulically accept the proposed flow, as demonstrated by being
11 equal to or less than one-tenth of the flow using the rational method.
- 12 d. All discharges shall be directed to buffer systems that utilize
13 low-energy methodologies to function as a buffer between the
14 discharge and the receiving waters. Buffer systems shall:
- 15 1. Consist of one of the following: (i) high-rate infiltration basins
16 that utilize engineered materials to achieve high rates of
17 infiltration, which engineered materials shall have an ASTM
18 gradation of a clean washed coarse grained sand; (ii)
19 constructed free surface wetlands having a hydraulic residence
20 time of 14 days; and (iii) other suitable technologies that
21 provide a physical or hydraulic residence time buffer, or both,
22 between the discharge and the receiving waters.
- 23 2. Discharge to areas that are 50 feet upland of the receiving
24 waters or wetlands at a non-erosive velocity equal to or less
25 than 2 feet per second through an appropriately designed
26 energy dissipater, or other applicable designs, that meet the
27 standard of practice for professional engineers for such
28 devices.
- 29 3. Divide the subsequent outfall to the receiving stream so that no
30 one particular outfall exceeds 1 cubic foot per second based on
31 the average daily flow of the discharge. Discharges from buffer
32 systems shall be allowed to be placed at increments along a
33 stream or receiving waters at a distance of no less than 50 linear
34 feet.
- 35 (3) For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:
- 36 a. 7Q10 flow. – A method to calculate the minimum average flow of a
37 receiving water for a period of seven consecutive days that has an
38 average recurrence of once in 10 years.
- 39 b. 30Q2 flow. – A method to calculate the minimum average flow of a
40 receiving water for a period of 30 consecutive days that has an average
41 recurrence of once in two years.
- 42 c. Highly treated domestic wastewater. – Wastewater effluent from
43 treatment systems that receive flows from sources of domestic
44 wastewater that meet the effluent limitations as set forth in subdivision
45 (1) of this subsection.
- 46 d. Rational method. – The method of computing storm drainage flow
47 rates (Q) by use of the formula $Q = CIA$. For purposes of this
48 sub-subdivision, the following definitions apply:
- 49 1. C. – The rational coefficient describing the stormwater runoff
50 characteristics of the drainage.

1 2. I. – The rainfall intensity for the one-year, 24-hour
2 precipitation event given by the National Oceanic and
3 Atmospheric Administration through its online precipitation
4 data server or other appropriate sources in units of inches per
5 hour.

6 3. A. – The catchment area tributary to the point being studied as
7 further defined using methodologies that meet the standard of
8 practice for such work, including, but not limited to, web-based
9 data and tools provided by the United States Geological Survey
10 or by other analysis using topographic data that follows the
11 standard of practice for such work by licensed professional
12 engineers in units of acres.

13 (4) Once an applicant has submitted data to demonstrate the proposed discharge
14 will meet the requirements of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection,
15 signed and sealed by a professional engineer licensed in accordance with the
16 provisions of Chapter 89C of the General Statutes, the application shall be
17 deemed complete for the purposes of review by the Department."

18 **SECTION 12.9.(b)** If rules are required in order to implement the requirements of
19 this section, the Department of Environmental Quality shall adopt temporary rules no later than
20 60 days after this section becomes law. Any temporary rules adopted in accordance with this
21 section shall remain in effect until permanent rules that replace the temporary rules become
22 effective. Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall not, however, impose additional
23 requirements on permitting of the discharge of highly treated domestic wastewater over that
24 established under G.S. 143-215.1(c8), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section.

25 **SECTION 12.9.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
26 G.S. 143-215.1(c8), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section, applies to permits for new or
27 expanded wastewater discharge facilities issued on or after that date.

29 **RIGHT TO APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN A PERMIT**

30 **SECTION 12.10.(a)** G.S. 143-211 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31 "(d) It is furthermore declared to be the public policy of the State that a strong economy is
32 critical to robust environmental protection. Transparent and responsive permitting supports both
33 the economy and environmental management. To maintain the public trust necessary for the
34 support of environmental programs, the issuance of environmental permits should not be based
35 on the financial or political influence of a permit applicant but solely on the demonstration of the
36 applicant's compliance and likelihood to comply in the future with applicable environmental
37 statutes and rules."

38 **SECTION 12.10.(b)** Article 7 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended
39 by adding a new section to read:

40 "**§ 143B-279.18. Right to apply and obtain permits.**

41 Except to the extent required by federal or State law, the Department of Environmental
42 Quality shall not refuse to accept an application for a permit, authorization, or certification or
43 refuse to issue any permit, authorization, or certificate based solely on the failure of an applicant
44 to obtain another permit, authorization, or certification required for the same project. For
45 purposes of this section, failure to obtain a permit, authorization, or certification shall not include
46 denial of the permit, authorization, or certification by the Department based on the standards for
47 approval of the permit, authorization, or certification provided by law."

48 **SECTION 12.10.(c)** G.S. 113A-54(a) reads as rewritten:

49 "(a) A draft erosion and sedimentation control plan must contain the applicant's address
50 and, if the applicant is not a resident of North Carolina, designate a North Carolina agent for the
51 purpose of receiving notice from the Commission or the Secretary of compliance or

1 noncompliance with the plan, this Article, or any rules adopted pursuant to this Article. Except
2 as provided in subsection (a1) of this section, if the applicant is not the owner of the land to be
3 disturbed, the draft erosion and sedimentation control plan must include the owner's written
4 consent for the applicant to submit a draft erosion and sedimentation control plan and to conduct
5 the anticipated land-disturbing activity. The Commission shall approve, approve with
6 modifications, or disapprove a draft erosion and sedimentation control plan for those
7 land-disturbing activities for which prior plan approval is required within 30 days of receipt. The
8 Commission shall not deny a draft erosion and sedimentation control plan based solely upon the
9 applicant's need to obtain other environmental permits, authorizations, or certifications for the
10 project, aside from a permit required for stormwater discharges from construction sites pursuant
11 to 40 C.F.R. § 122.26; the Commission shall, however, condition approval of a draft erosion and
12 sedimentation control plan upon the applicant's compliance with federal and State water quality
13 laws, regulations, and ~~rules~~-rules, including the applicant's receipt of other environmental
14 permits, authorizations, or certifications that may be required for the project. Failure to approve,
15 approve with modifications, or disapprove a completed draft erosion and sedimentation control
16 plan within 30 days of receipt shall be deemed approval of the plan. If the Commission
17 disapproves a draft erosion and sedimentation control plan or a revised erosion and sedimentation
18 control plan, it must state in writing the specific reasons that the plan was disapproved. Failure
19 to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove a revised erosion and sedimentation
20 control plan within 15 days of receipt shall be deemed approval of the plan. The Commission
21 may establish an expiration date for erosion and sedimentation control plans approved under this
22 Article."

23 **SECTION 12.10.(d)** G.S. 113A-61 reads as rewritten:

24 "**§ 113A-61. Local approval of erosion and sedimentation control plans.**

25 ...

26 (b) Local governments shall review each erosion and sedimentation control plan
27 submitted to them and within 30 days of receipt thereof shall notify the person submitting the
28 plan that it has been approved, approved with modifications, or disapproved. A local government
29 shall only approve a plan upon determining that it complies with all applicable State and local
30 regulations for erosion and sedimentation control.

31 (b1) A local government shall not deny a draft erosion and sedimentation control plan
32 based solely upon the applicant's need to obtain other environmental permits, authorizations, or
33 certifications for the project, aside from a permit required for stormwater discharges from
34 construction sites pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 122.26; the local government shall, however, condition
35 approval of a draft erosion and sedimentation control plan upon the applicant's compliance with
36 federal and State water quality laws, regulations, and ~~rules~~-rules, including the applicant's receipt
37 of other environmental permits, authorizations, or certifications that may be required for the
38 project. A local government shall disapprove an erosion and sedimentation control plan if
39 implementation of the plan would result in a violation of rules adopted by the Environmental
40 Management Commission to protect riparian buffers along surface waters. A local government
41 may disapprove an erosion and sedimentation control plan or disapprove a transfer of a plan
42 under subsection (b3) of this section upon finding that an applicant or a parent, subsidiary, or
43 other affiliate of the applicant:

44"

45 **AIR PERMITTING REVISIONS**

46 **AIR PERMITTING REVIEW AND ISSUANCE TIME LINES**

47 **SECTION 12.11.(a)** G.S. 143-215.108(d)(2) reads as rewritten:

48 "(2) The Commission shall adopt rules specifying the times within which it must
49 act upon applications for permits required by Title V and other permits
50
51

1 required by this section. ~~The times specified shall be extended for the period~~
 2 ~~during which the Commission is prohibited from issuing a permit under~~
 3 ~~subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection. The rules shall provide, at a~~
 4 ~~minimum, that the Department shall issue the permit, deny the permit, or~~
 5 ~~publish the permit for public notice and comment within 90 calendar days of~~
 6 ~~receipt of a complete application for a minor modification, within 270~~
 7 ~~calendar days of receipt of an application for a major modification, or within~~
 8 ~~15 months of receipt of a complete application for a renewal permit. The~~
 9 Commission shall inform a permit applicant as to whether or not the
 10 application is complete within the time specified in the rules for action on the
 11 application. If the Commission fails to act on an application for a permit
 12 required by Title V or this section within the time period specified, ~~the failure~~
 13 ~~to act on the application constitutes a final agency decision to deny the permit.~~
 14 ~~A permit applicant, permittee, or other person aggrieved, as defined in~~
 15 ~~G.S. 150B-2, may seek judicial review of a failure to act on the application as~~
 16 ~~provided in G.S. 143-215.5 and Article 4 of Chapter 150B of the General~~
 17 ~~Statutes. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 150B-51, upon review of a~~
 18 ~~failure to act on an application for a permit required by Title V or this section,~~
 19 ~~a court may either: (i) affirm the denial of the permit or (ii) remand the~~
 20 ~~application to the Commission for action upon the application within a~~
 21 ~~specified time. the permit applicant, permittee, or other person aggrieved, as~~
 22 ~~defined in G.S. 150B-2, may commence a contested case under~~
 23 ~~G.S. 150B-23(a4)."~~
 24

25 TITLE V RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXEMPTION

26 **SECTION 12.11.(b)** The Environmental Management Commission shall begin
 27 rulemaking to create a Title V permit exemption for non-major research and development
 28 activities consistent with the Environmental Protection Agency's position regarding exemption
 29 for such activities as set forth in the July 10, 1995, "White Paper for Streamlined Development
 30 of Part 70 Permit Applications." The rules shall include, at a minimum, allowance levels and
 31 minor permit modification thresholds to promote greater flexibility in research and development
 32 activities and to allow facilities subject to Title V permit requirements flexibility to work with
 33 the Department of Environmental Quality and notify them of research activities with a minor
 34 permit modification to maintain compliance. The Commission shall complete draft rulemaking
 35 activities and submit a Title V program amendment request to the Environmental Protection
 36 Agency no later than July 1, 2025.
 37

38 PRE-PERMITTING ACTIVITIES

39 **SECTION 12.11.(c)** G.S. 143-215.108A reads as rewritten:

40 "**§ 143-215.108A. Control of sources of air pollution; construction of new facilities;**
 41 **alteration or expansion of existing facilities.**

42 (a) New Facilities. – ~~A~~ Except as provided in subsection (b1) of this section, a person
 43 may not, without obtaining a permit under G.S. 143-215.108, construct or operate an air
 44 contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device at a site or facility where, at the
 45 time of the construction, there is no other air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air
 46 cleaning device for which a permit is required under G.S. 143-215.108. ~~A person may, however,~~
 47 ~~undertake the following activities prior to obtaining a permit if the person complies with the~~
 48 ~~requirements of this section:~~

49 (1) ~~Clearing and grading.~~

50 (2) ~~Construction of access roads, driveways, and parking lots.~~

- ~~(3) Construction and installation of underground pipe work, including water, sewer, electric, and telecommunications utilities.~~
- ~~(4) Construction of ancillary structures, including fences and office buildings, that are not a necessary component of an air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device for which a permit is required under G.S. 143-215.108.~~

(b) Permitted Facilities. – A person who holds a permit under G.S. 143-215.108 may apply to the Commission for a modification of the permit to allow the person to alter or expand the physical arrangement or operation of an air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device in a manner that alters the emission of air contaminants. The Except as provided in subsection (b1) of this section, the permittee may not operate the altered, expanded, or additional air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device in a manner that alters the emission of any air contaminant without obtaining a permit modification under G.S. 143-215.108. A permittee may, however, alter or expand the physical arrangement or operation of an air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device at a facility permitted under G.S. 143-215.108 if the permittee complies with the requirements of this section. At least 15 days prior to commencing alteration or expansion under this subsection, the permittee shall give notice by publication and shall submit to the Commission a notice of the permittee's intent to alter or expand the physical arrangement or operation of an air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device. Notice by publication shall be in a newspaper having general circulation in the county or counties where the facility is to be located; shall be at the permittee's own expense; shall include a statement that written comment may be submitted to the Commission, that the Commission will consider any comment that it receives, and the Commission's address for submission of written comment; and shall include all the information required by subdivisions (1) through (6) of this subsection. The permittee shall submit a proof of publication of the notice to the Commission within 15 days of the date of publication. The notice of intent to the Commission shall include all of the following:

...

(b1) A person who (i) has filed an application under this Article to construct or operate an air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device at a site or facility or (ii) holds a permit under G.S. 143-215.108 and who has applied to the Commission for a modification of the permit to allow the person to alter or expand the physical arrangement or operation of an air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device in a manner that alters the emission of air contaminants may undertake the following activities prior to obtaining a permit if the person complies with the requirements of this section:

- (1) Clearing and grading.
- (2) Construction of access roads, driveways, and parking lots.
- (3) Construction and installation of underground pipe work, including water, sewer, electric, and telecommunications utilities.
- (4) Construction of ancillary structures, including fences and office buildings, and support equipment, including standby generators and fire pumps, that are not a necessary component of an air contaminant source, equipment, or associated air cleaning device for which a permit is required under G.S. 143-215.108.

...."

EXPEDITED PERMITTING FOR AIR PERMITS

SECTION 12.11.(d) G.S. 143-215.108 is amended by adding two new subsections to read:

"(k) Expedited Processing. – The Environmental Management Commission shall adopt rules for the expedited processing of applications by the Department, including, but not limited to, the expedited fee and the procedures for expediting the application completeness

1 determination, technical review, and permit issuance. The rules shall provide, at a minimum, the
2 following:

3 (1) The Department shall issue the permit, deny the permit, or publish the permit
4 for public notice and comment within 60 calendar days of receipt of a
5 complete application for a minor modification, within 180 calendar days of
6 receipt of an application for a major modification or a new facility.

7 (2) When an application for an expedited permit is pending before the Department
8 and the Department has not issued or denied the permit or proceeded to public
9 notice within the time specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
10 Department shall refund the expedited processing fee collected under
11 subdivision (3) of this subsection. Any fee refund under this subsection shall
12 not otherwise affect the application process, and the permit shall be issued,
13 denied, or otherwise processed as provided by law.

14 (3) For expedited processing under this section, the Commission may set and the
15 Department shall collect an expedited processing fee of up to two hundred
16 percent (200%) of the otherwise applicable air permit fee set by the
17 Commission pursuant to G.S. 143-215.3.

18 (l) Expedited Review. – The Commission shall adopt rules for the expedited joint
19 processing of applications by a qualified professional and the Department. The rules shall
20 provide, at a minimum, the following:

21 (1) The Department shall select professionals with qualifications as the
22 Department may specify to review specified air permit applications.

23 (2) A permit applicant may retain at the applicant's expense a professional to
24 prepare and certify the application completeness check, technical review, and
25 statement of compliance with all federal and State requirements. This
26 professional reviewer shall meet qualifications specified by the Department,
27 and the Department shall maintain a list of qualified professional reviewers
28 and post the list to the Department's website. These professional reviewers
29 shall be independent of any professional retained by the permit applicant to
30 prepare the application, and the Department shall specify standards for
31 independence.

32 (3) The Department shall prepare the permit for issuance or public notice within
33 30 days of receipt of a complete application with the technical review and
34 certification of compliance with all federal and State requirements from the
35 professional reviewer under subdivision (2) of this subsection."

36 **SECTION 12.11.(e)** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of
37 Environmental Quality in the 2024-2025 fiscal year for expedited air permit start-up expenses
38 may be used by the Department to establish a time-limited position or to contract for engineering
39 review and permit application processing services to support the expedited permitting programs
40 established in subsection (d) of this section. It is the intent of the General Assembly that this
41 program become self-supporting through the collection of the expedited permitting fees
42 authorized by subsection (d) of this section.

43 **STORMWATER AND NPDES PERMIT REVISIONS**

44 **STORMWATER PERMITTING REVISIONS**

45 **SECTION 12.12.(a)** G.S. 143-214.7 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

46 "(b5) The Department shall approve or deny a stormwater permit within 60 processing days
47 and, except as modified by subdivision (2) of this subsection, a failure to do so within that time
48 period shall be deemed an approval of the stormwater permit. For purposes of calculating
49 processing days under this subsection, the following criteria shall be applied:
50
51

- 1 (1) The processing time shall begin on the first business day that the application
 2 is received by the Department through (i) electronic means, (ii) first-class,
 3 registered, or certified mail, or (iii) hand delivery by the applicant.
 4 (2) Within five business days, the Department shall perform an initial review of
 5 the application for completeness and notify the applicant if it finds the
 6 application incomplete, specifying in that notification the deficiencies
 7 identified by the Department's initial review. Such notice may be sent
 8 electronically or by certified or registered mail. Calculation of processing days
 9 after a notice of incompleteness shall be handled as follows:
 10 a. If the applicant responds within 10 business days with information
 11 addressing the identified permit deficiencies, the Department shall
 12 have 45 days following the receipt of the applicant response to approve
 13 or deny the permit.
 14 b. If no response with information addressing the identified application
 15 deficiencies is received from the applicant within 10 business days, the
 16 running of processing days shall pause on the tenth day following the
 17 day that such notice is sent and shall resume on the first business day
 18 that the requested information is received by the Department through
 19 (i) electronic means, (ii) first-class, registered, or certified mail, or (iii)
 20 hand delivery by the applicant.
 21 (3) After the applicant's response to any deficiencies identified in the initial
 22 review, a subsequent determination of the application to be incomplete shall
 23 be considered as a subsequent review. Any comments or requests for
 24 additional information made by the Department during a subsequent review
 25 that are not directly related to the applicant's attempt to satisfy specific initial
 26 review comments are considered to be comments that were failed to be
 27 properly made during initial review, and the process days shall continue to run
 28 during the request for comment period unless the applicant takes longer than
 29 three business days to respond to electronic comments or one week from the
 30 postmarked day to respond to comments received by mail, in which case the
 31 processing days shall pause as described in sub-subdivision (2)b. of this
 32 subsection."

33 **SECTION 12.12.(b)** The Commission shall adopt amendments to its relevant
 34 permitting rules to reflect the statutory changes made by subsection (a) of this section.

35 **SECTION 12.12.(c)** Subsections (a) and (b) of this section become effective January
 36 1, 2024.
 37

38 **LIMIT AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT TO PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT** 39 **WORKS**

40 **SECTION 12.12.(d)** G.S. 143-215.1(a) reads as rewritten:

41 "(a) Activities for Which Permits Required. – Except as provided in subsection (a6) of this
 42 section, no person shall do any of the following things or carry out any of the following activities
 43 unless that person has received a permit from the Commission and has complied with all
 44 conditions set forth in the permit:

- 45 (1) Make any outlets into the waters of the State.
 46 (2) ~~Construct or operate~~ Operate any sewer system, treatment works, or disposal
 47 system within the State.
 48 (3) Alter, extend, or change the ~~construction or~~ method of operation of any sewer
 49 system, treatment works, or disposal system within the State.
 50 (3a) Construct or change the construction of any publicly owned sewer system,
 51 treatment works, or disposal system within the State.

1"

2
3 **LIMIT REVIEW OF MINOR MODIFICATIONS OF PRETREATMENT PROGRAM**
4 **INDUSTRIAL USERS**

5 **SECTION 12.12.(e)** G.S. 143-215.3(a)(14) reads as rewritten:

6 "(14) To certify and approve, by appropriate delegations and conditions in permits
7 required by G.S. 143-215.1, requests by publicly owned treatment works to
8 implement, administer and enforce a pretreatment program for the control of
9 pollutants which pass through or interfere with treatment processes in such
10 treatment works; and to require such programs to be developed where
11 necessary to comply with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the
12 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, including the addition of
13 conditions and compliance schedules in permits required by G.S. 143-215.1.
14 Pretreatment programs submitted by publicly owned treatment works shall
15 include, at a minimum, the adoption of pretreatment standards, a permit or
16 equally effective system for the control of pollutants contributed to the
17 treatment works, and the ability to effectively enforce compliance with the
18 program. No pretreatment program for a publicly owned treatment works shall
19 implement pretreatment permit modification requirements that impose review
20 requirements in excess of annual reporting requirements for pretreatment
21 programs required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency."
22

23 **EXPRESS PERMITTING REVISIONS**

24 **SECTION 12.13.(a)** G.S. 143B-279.13 reads as rewritten:

25 **"§ 143B-279.13. Express permit and certification reviews.**

26 (a) The Department of Environmental Quality shall develop an express review program
27 to provide express permit and certification reviews in all of its regional offices. Participation in
28 the express review program is voluntary, and the program ~~is to become~~ shall be supported by the
29 fees determined pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The Department of Environmental
30 Quality shall determine the project applications to review under the express review program from
31 those who request to participate in the program. The express review program may be applied to
32 any one or all of the permits, approvals, or certifications in the following programs: the erosion
33 and sedimentation control program, the coastal management program, and the water quality
34 programs, including water quality certifications and stormwater management. The express
35 review program shall focus on the following permits or certifications:

- 36 (1) Stormwater permits under Part 1 of Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General
37 Statutes.
38 (2) Stream origination certifications under Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the
39 General Statutes.
40 (3) Water quality certification under Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General
41 Statutes.
42 (4) Erosion and sedimentation control permits under Article 4 of Chapter 113A
43 of the General Statutes.
44 (5) ~~Permits under the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), Part 4 of Article~~
45 ~~7 of Chapter 113A of the General Statutes.~~

46 (a1) The Department of Environmental Quality shall have the authority to create express
47 permitting options for programs in addition to those listed in subsection (a) of this section where
48 it deems there to be a need or where it determines an express permitting option would create
49 greater efficiencies for the permitting process.

50 (b) The Department of Environmental Quality ~~may determine~~ shall set the fees for
51 express application review under the express review ~~program.~~ program at a level sufficient to

1 cover all program expenses. Notwithstanding G.S. 143-215.3D, the maximum permit application
 2 fee to be charged under subsection (a) of this section for the express review of a project
 3 application ~~requiring all of the permits under subdivisions (1) through (5) of subsection (a) of~~
 4 ~~this section shall not exceed five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500).~~ Notwithstanding G.S.
 5 ~~143-215.3D, the maximum permit application fee to be charged for the express review of a~~
 6 ~~project application requiring all of the permits under subdivisions (1) through (4) of subsection~~
 7 ~~(a) of this section shall not exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500).~~ Notwithstanding
 8 G.S. 143-215.3D, the maximum permit application fee charged for the express review of a project
 9 application for any other combination of permits under subdivisions (1) through (5) of subsection
 10 (a) of this section shall not exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000). Express review of a project
 11 application involving additional permits or certifications issued by the Department of
 12 Environmental Quality other than those under subdivisions (1) through (5) of subsection (a) of
 13 this section may be allowed by the Department, and, notwithstanding ~~(\$5,500) per permit,~~
 14 approval, or certification. Notwithstanding G.S. 143-215.3D or any other statute or rule that sets
 15 a permit fee, the maximum permit application fee charged for the express review of a project
 16 application that includes a permit, approval, or certification designated for express review under
 17 subsection (a1) of this section shall not exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000), plus one hundred
 18 fifty percent (150%) of the fee that would otherwise apply by statute or rule for that particular
 19 permit, approval, or certification. Additional fees, not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the
 20 original permit application fee under this section, may be charged for subsequent reviews due to
 21 the insufficiency of the permit applications. ~~The Department of Environmental Quality may~~
 22 ~~establish the procedure by which the amount of the fees under this subsection is determined, and~~
 23 ~~the fees and procedures are not rules under G.S. 150B-2(8a) for the express review program~~
 24 ~~under this section.~~

25 (b1) When an application for an express stormwater permit under Part 1 of Article 21 of
 26 Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is pending before the Department and the Department has
 27 not complied with the permit issuance time limits identified in subsection (b5) of G.S. 143-214.7,
 28 the Department shall refund the higher fees which were required to be submitted by the applicant
 29 as a condition of filing the permit application under this section that are in excess of the fee
 30 amount otherwise charged for a permit application under G.S. 143-214.7. Any fee refund under
 31 this subsection shall not otherwise affect the application process, and the permit shall be issued,
 32 denied, or otherwise processed as provided by law.

33"

34 **SECTION 12.13.(b)** No later than July 1, 2025, the Department shall adopt rules,
 35 not including rules related to fees, to implement the express permitting program as amended by
 36 subsection (a) of this section.

37 **SECTION 12.13.(c)** Until the effective date of the rules required by subsection (b)
 38 of this section, the Department may continue to operate and administer the program as it did prior
 39 to the enactment of this section.

40 **DEQ FEE REVISIONS**

41 **WATER QUALITY AND STORMWATER FEES**

42 **SECTION 12.14.(a)** G.S. 143-215.3D reads as rewritten:

43 **"§ 143-215.3D. Fee schedule for water quality permits.**

44 (a) Annual fees for discharge and nondischarge permits under G.S. 143-215.1. –

45 (1) Major Individual NPDES Permits. – The annual fee for an individual permit
 46 for a point source discharge of 1,000,000 or more gallons per day, a publicly
 47 owned treatment works (POTW) that administers a POTW pretreatment
 48 program, as defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 403.3 (1 July 1996
 49 Edition), or an industrial waste treatment works that has a high toxic pollutant
 50
 51

- 1 potential is ~~three thousand four hundred forty dollars (\$3,440)~~. four thousand
 2 six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,625).
- 3 (2) Minor Individual NPDES Permits. – The annual fee for an individual permit
 4 for a point source discharge other than a point source discharge to which
 5 subdivision (1) of this subsection applies is ~~eight hundred sixty dollars~~
 6 ~~(\$860.00)~~. one thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$1,150).
- 7 (3) Single-Family Residence. – The annual fee for a certificate of coverage under
 8 a general permit for a point source discharge or an individual nondischarge
 9 permit from a single-family residence is sixty dollars (\$60.00).
- 10 (4) ~~Stormwater and~~ Wastewater Discharge General Permits. – The annual fee for
 11 a certificate of coverage under a general permit for a point source discharge
 12 of ~~stormwater or~~ wastewater is one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- 13 (5) Recycle Systems. – The annual fee for an individual permit for a recycle
 14 system nondischarge permit is ~~three hundred sixty dollars (\$360.00)~~. five
 15 hundred twenty dollars (\$520.00).
- 16 (6) Major Nondischarge Permits. – The annual fee for an individual permit for a
 17 nondischarge of 10,000 or more gallons per day or requiring 300 or more acres
 18 of land is ~~one thousand three hundred ten dollars (\$1,310)~~. one thousand seven
 19 hundred sixty dollars (\$1,760).
- 20 (7) Minor Nondischarge Permits. – The annual fee for an individual permit for a
 21 nondischarge of less than 10,000 gallons per day or requiring less than 300
 22 acres of land is ~~eight hundred ten dollars (\$810.00)~~. one thousand one hundred
 23 sixty dollars (\$1,160).
- 24 (8) Animal Waste Management Systems. – The annual fee for animal waste
 25 management systems is as set out in G.S. 143-215.10G.
- 26 (9) Authorizations to Construct. – The application fee for an authorization to
 27 construct for a wastewater treatment plant expansion, upgrade, replacement,
 28 or repair is one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
- 29 (10) NPDES Stormwater Permits. – The permit fee and annual fee for NPDES
 30 stormwater permits is as follows:
- 31 a. The fee for an industrial NPDES individual permit is one thousand two
 32 hundred dollars (\$1,200).
- 33 b. The fee for coverage under a construction or industrial NPDES general
 34 permit is one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00).
- 35 c. The fee for an NPDES MS4 major permit is four thousand two
 36 hundred dollars (\$4,200).
- 37 d. The fee for an NPDES MS4 minor permit is one thousand dollars
 38 (\$1,000).
- 39 e. The fee for an NPDES no exposure certification is two hundred fifty
 40 dollars (\$250.00), only in the first year.
- 41 (b) Application fee for new discharge and nondischarge permits. – An application for a
 42 new permit of the type set out in subsection (a) of this section shall be accompanied by an initial
 43 application fee equal to the annual fee for that permit. If a permit is issued, the application fee
 44 shall be applied as the annual fee for the first year that the permit is in effect. If the application
 45 is denied, the application fee shall not be refunded.
- 46 ...
- 47 (e) Other fees under this Article. –
- 48 (1) Sewer System Extension Permits. – The application fee for (i) a permit for the
 49 construction of a new sewer ~~system or for system~~, (ii) a permit for the
 50 extension of an existing sewer ~~system-system~~, or (iii) a variance request is ~~four~~
 51 ~~hundred eighty dollars (\$480.00)~~. six hundred dollars (\$600.00).

- 1 (2) State Stormwater Permits. – ~~The application fee for~~ The fee for a permit
 2 regulating stormwater runoff under G.S. 143-214.7 and ~~G.S. 143-215.1 is five~~
 3 ~~hundred five dollars (\$505.00).~~ G.S. 143-215.1 is as follows:
 4 a. The fee for a new permit or a major modification of an existing
 5 development project permit is based on the number of stormwater
 6 control measures (SCMs) proposed in the permit as set forth in this
 7 sub-subdivision. The term "major modification" is defined in 15A
 8 NCAC 02H .1002.
 9 1. For two or fewer SCMs, one thousand four hundred dollars
 10 (\$1,400).
 11 2. For more than two and fewer than six SCMs, one thousand
 12 eight hundred dollars (\$1,800).
 13 3. For six or more SCMs, two thousand two hundred dollars
 14 (\$2,200).
 15 b. The fee for a minor modification of a State stormwater permit is seven
 16 hundred dollars (\$700.00). The term "minor modification" is defined
 17 in 15A NCAC 02H .1002.
 18 c. The fee for a renewal or transfer of a State stormwater permit is one
 19 thousand dollars (\$1,000).
 20 d. The fee for a combination renewal and transfer of a State stormwater
 21 permit is one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500).
 22 e. The fee for new coverage under a general permit is seven hundred
 23 dollars (\$700.00).
 24 (3) Major Water Quality Certifications. – The fee for a water quality certification
 25 involving one acre or more of wetland fill or 150 feet or more of stream impact
 26 is ~~five hundred seventy dollars (\$570.00).~~ seven hundred sixty-seven dollars
 27 (\$767.00).
 28 (4) Minor Water Quality Certifications. – The fee for a water quality certification
 29 involving less than one acre of wetland fill or less than 150 feet of stream
 30 impact is ~~two hundred forty dollars (\$240.00).~~ three hundred twenty-three
 31 dollars (\$323.00).
 32 "

HAZARDOUS WASTE FEE

SECTION 12.14.(b) G.S. 130A-294.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-294.1. Fees applicable to generators and transporters of hazardous waste, and to hazardous waste storage, treatment, and disposal facilities.

...

(f) A person who generates 100 kilograms or more of hazardous waste in any calendar month during the year beginning 1 July and ending 30 June but less than 1000 kilograms of hazardous waste in each calendar month during that year shall pay an annual fee of ~~one hundred seventy five dollars (\$175.00).~~ three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

...."

SOLID WASTE FEE

SECTION 12.14.(c) G.S. 130A-295.8 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-295.8. Fees applicable to permits for solid waste management facilities.

...

(d1) A permitted solid waste management facility shall pay an annual permit fee on or before August 1 of each year according to the following schedule:

...

- 1 (13) Treatment and Processing Facility – ~~\$500.~~\$750.00.
 2 (14) Tire Monofill – \$1,000.
 3 (14a) Post-Closure Tire Monofill – \$500.00.
 4 (15) ~~Incinerator – \$500.~~Incinerator accepting less than 200 tons per day of solid
 5 waste – \$500.00.
 6 (15a) Incinerator accepting more than 200 tons per day of solid waste – \$1,000.
 7 (16) Large Compost Facility – ~~\$500.~~\$800.00.
 8 (16a) Small Compost Facility – \$300.00.
 9 (17) Land Clearing and Inert Debris Landfill – ~~\$500.~~\$900.00.
 10 (d2) Upon submission of an application for a new permit, an applicant shall pay an
 11 application fee in the amount of ~~ten percent (10%)~~twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual permit
 12 fee imposed for that type of solid waste management facility as identified in subdivisions (1)
 13 through (17) of subsection (d1) of this section.
 14 (d3) Upon submission of an application for a permit modification to a solid waste
 15 management facility identified in subdivisions (1) through (12) of subsection (d1) of this section,
 16 an applicant shall pay an application fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
 17 (d4) When a cumulative impact review is required to be conducted in accordance with
 18 G.S. 130A-294(a)(4)c. for an application for a new permit, the permit application fee required by
 19 subsection (d2) of this section shall be increased by one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
 20 (d5) If a solid waste management facility identified in subdivision (4), (7), (10), or (14a)
 21 of subsection (d1) of this section is required by the Department to conduct assessment and
 22 corrective action activities, the annual permit fee imposed for that type of solid waste
 23 management facility shall be increased by seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) during each year
 24 that the facility is conducting assessment and corrective action activities, until released from the
 25 requirement by the Department.
 26"

SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT FEE

29 **SECTION 12.14.(d)** G.S. 130A-291.1 reads as rewritten:
 30 **"§ 130A-291.1. Septage management program; permit fees.**

- 31 ...
 32 (e) A septage management firm that operates one pumper truck shall pay an annual fee
 33 of ~~five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00)~~eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) to the Department. A
 34 septage management firm that operates two pumper trucks shall pay an annual fee of nine
 35 hundred fifty dollars (\$950.00) to the Department. A septage management firm that operates ~~two~~
 36 three or more pumper trucks shall pay an annual fee of ~~eight hundred dollars (\$800.00)~~one
 37 thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) to the Department.
 38 (e1) An individual who operates a septage storage, treatment or disposal facility but who
 39 does not engage in the business of pumping, transporting, or disposing of septage shall pay an
 40 annual fee of ~~two hundred dollars (\$200.00)~~five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
 41"

COAL ASH MANAGEMENT ACT FEE

44 **SECTION 12.14.(e)** G.S. 62-302.1 reads as rewritten:
 45 **"§ 62-302.1. Regulatory fee for combustion residuals surface impoundments.**

- 46 ...
 47 (b) Rate. – The combustion residuals surface impoundment fee shall be ~~twenty-two~~
 48 ~~thousandths of one percent (0.022%)~~three-hundredths of one percent (0.03%) of the North
 49 Carolina jurisdictional revenues of each public utility with a coal combustion residuals surface
 50 impoundment. For the purposes of this section, the term "North Carolina jurisdictional revenues"
 51 has the same meaning as in G.S. 62-302.

...."

PLAN REVIEW AND PERMIT FEES

SECTION 12.14.(f) G.S. 130A-328 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-328. Public water system operating permit and permit fee.

(a) No person shall operate a community or non transient non-community water system who has not been issued an operating permit by the Department. A community or non transient non-community water system operating permit shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of each year unless suspended or revoked by the Department for cause. The Commission shall adopt rules concerning permit issuance and renewal and permit suspension and revocation. The annual fees in subsection (b) shall be prorated on a monthly basis for permits obtained after January 1 of each year.

(b) The following fees are imposed for the issuance or renewal of a permit to operate a community or non transient non-community water system; the fees are based on the number of persons served by the system:

Non Community Water Systems: Fee

Base Fee:

Non transient non-community	\$150 <u>\$190</u>
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Community Water Systems:

Number of Persons Served

50 or fewer	\$255 <u>\$320</u>
More than 50 but no more than 100	\$270 <u>\$340</u>
More than 100 but no more than 200	\$330 <u>\$410</u>
More than 200 but no more than 300	\$350 <u>\$430</u>
More than 300 but no more than 400	\$385 <u>\$480</u>
More than 400 but no more than 500	\$420 <u>\$520</u>
More than 500 but no more than 750	\$780 <u>\$970</u>
More than 750 but no more than 1000	\$810 <u>\$1,010</u>
More than 1000 but no more than 2000	\$840 <u>\$1,050</u>
More than 2000 but no more than 3000	\$870 <u>\$1,090</u>
More than 3000 but no more than 4000	\$1350 <u>\$1,690</u>
More than 4000 but no more than 5000	\$1460 <u>\$1,830</u>
More than 5000 but no more than 7500	\$1925 <u>\$2,410</u>
More than 7500 but no more than 10,000	\$2065 <u>\$2,580</u>
More than 10,000 but no more than 25,000	\$2600 <u>\$3,250</u>
More than 25,000 but no more than 50,000	\$2925 <u>\$3,660</u>
More than 50,000 but no more than 75,000	\$4250 <u>\$5,310</u>
More than 75,000 but no more than 100,000	\$4675 <u>\$5,840</u>
More than 100,000 but no more than 250,000	\$5100 <u>\$6,380</u>
More than 250,000 but no more than 500,000	\$5525 <u>\$6,910</u>
More than 500,000	\$5950 <u>\$7,440.</u>

(c) The following fees are imposed for the review of plans, specifications, and other information submitted to the Department for approval of construction or alteration of a public water system. The fees are based on the type of constructions or alteration proposed:

Distribution system: Fee

Construction of water lines, less than 5000 linear feet	\$150 <u>\$300</u>
---	-------------------------------

Construction of water lines, 5000 linear feet or more	\$200 <u>\$400</u>
---	-------------------------------

1	Other construction or alteration to a distribution system	\$75 <u>\$150</u>
2		
3	Ground water system:	
4	Construction of a new ground water system or adding a new well	\$200 <u>\$400</u>
5	Alteration to an existing ground water system	\$100 <u>\$200</u>
6		
7	Surface Water system:	
8	Construction of a new surface water treatment facility	\$250 <u>\$500</u>
9	Alteration to an existing surface water treatment facility	\$150 <u>\$300</u>
10	Water System Management Plan review	\$75 <u>\$150</u>
11	Miscellaneous changes or maintenance not covered above	\$50 <u>\$100</u>
12	(d) The Department may charge an administrative fee of up to one hundred fifty dollars	
13	(\$150.00) for failure to pay the permit fee by January 31 of each year.	
14"	

WASTEWATER AND ANIMAL WASTE FEES

SECTION 12.14.(g) G.S. 90A-42 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90A-42. Fees.

(a) The Commission, in establishing procedures for implementing the requirements of this Article, shall impose the following schedule of fees:

- (1) Examination including Certificate, \$85.00;
- (2) Temporary Certificate, \$200.00;
- (3) Temporary Certification Renewal, \$300.00;
- (4) Conditional Certificate, \$75.00;
- (5) Repealed by Session Laws 1987, c. 582, s. 3.
- (6) Reciprocity Certificate, \$100.00;
- (6a) Voluntary Conversion Certificate, \$50.00;
- (7) Annual Renewal, per certification \$50.00;
- (8) Replacement of Certificate, \$20.00;
- (9) Late Payment of Annual Renewal, \$50.00 penalty in addition to all current and past due annual renewal fees plus one hundred dollars (\$100.00) penalty per year for each year for which annual renewal fees were not paid prior to the current year; and
- (10) Mailing List Charges – The Commission may provide mailing lists of certified water pollution control system operators and of water pollution control system operators to persons who request such lists. The charge for such lists shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each such list provided.

(b) The Water Pollution Control System Account is established as a nonreverting account within the Department. Fees collected under this section shall be credited to the Account and applied to the costs of administering this Article. Interest and other income received on the Fund balance shall be treated as set forth in G.S. 147-69.1(d)."

SECTION 12.14.(h) G.S. 90A-47.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90A-47.4. Fees; certificate renewals.

(a) An applicant for certification under this Part shall pay a fee of ~~twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)~~ eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) for the examination and the certificate.

(b) The certificate shall be renewed annually upon payment of a renewal fee of ~~ten dollars (\$10.00)~~ fifty dollars (\$50.00). A certificate holder who fails to renew the certificate and pay the renewal fee within 30 days of its expiration shall be required to take and pass the examination for certification in order to renew the certificate."

LAB CERTIFICATION FEES

1 **SECTION 12.14.(i)** Definitions. – For purposes of this section and its
2 implementation, "Lab Certification Fee Rule" means 15A NCAC 02H .0806 (Fees Associated
3 with Certification Program).

4 **SECTION 12.14.(j)** Lab Certification Fee Rule. – Until the effective date of the
5 revised permanent rule that the Environmental Management Commission is required to adopt
6 pursuant to subsection (l) of this section, the Commission shall implement the Lab Certification
7 Fee Rule as provided in subsection (k) of this section.

8 **SECTION 12.14.(k)** Implementation. – Laboratory certification fees shall be revised
9 as follows:

- 10 (1) The fee for municipal, industrial, and other laboratories analyzing only
11 samples for field parameters shall be increased from one hundred fifty dollars
12 (\$150.00) to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- 13 (2) The fee for commercial laboratories analyzing only samples for field
14 parameters shall be increased from three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to five
15 hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- 16 (3) The minimum fee for municipal, industrial, and other laboratories shall be
17 increased from one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) to two
18 thousand dollars (\$2,000).
- 19 (4) The minimum fee for other commercial laboratories shall be increased from
20 three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) to six thousand five hundred
21 dollars (\$6,500).
- 22 (5) To reflect the additional costs of certifying labs located outside the State, the
23 minimum fee for those labs shall be set at one hundred fifty percent (150%)
24 of the amounts set out in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection.

25 **SECTION 12.14.(l)** Additional Rulemaking Authority. – The Commission shall
26 adopt a rule to amend the Lab Certification Fee Rule consistent with subsection (k) of this section.
27 Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-19(4), the rule adopted by the Commission pursuant to this section
28 shall be substantively identical to the provisions of subsection (k) of this section. Rules adopted
29 pursuant to this section are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General
30 Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall become effective as provided in
31 G.S. 150B-21.3(b1), as though 10 or more written objections had been received as provided in
32 G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

33 **SECTION 12.14.(m)** Applicability and Sunset. – This section and rules adopted
34 pursuant to this section apply to all applications for certification submitted on or after July 1,
35 2023. Subsections (i) through (l) of this section expire when permanent rules adopted as required
36 by subsection (l) of this section become effective.

37 **SECTION 12.14.(n)** G.S. 143-215.3(a)(10) reads as rewritten:

38 "(10) To require a laboratory facility that performs any tests, analyses,
39 measurements, or monitoring required under this Article or Article 21B of this
40 Chapter to be certified annually by the Department, to establish standards that
41 a laboratory facility and its employees must meet and maintain in order for the
42 laboratory facility to be certified, and to charge a laboratory facility a fee for
43 certification. Fees collected under this subdivision shall be credited to the
44 Water and Air Account and used to administer this subdivision. Beginning
45 July 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter, the Commission shall adjust the
46 fees imposed pursuant to this subdivision to cover the costs of legislatively
47 mandated salary and benefits revisions for the employees administering the
48 laboratory facility certification program. These fees shall be applied to the cost
49 of certifying ~~commercial, industrial, and municipal~~ laboratory facilities."
50

51 WIND ENERGY FACILITY FEES

1 **SECTION 12.14.(o)** G.S. 143-215.119(c) reads as rewritten:
2 "(c) Fees. – An applicant for a permit for a proposed wind energy facility or proposed
3 wind energy facility expansion under this section shall submit with the application required
4 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, an application fee of ~~three thousand five hundred dollars~~
5 ~~(\$3,500)~~ not to exceed one and one-quarter percent (1.25%) of the actual cost of construction,
6 alteration, repair, or expansion of the wind energy facility."

7 **SECTION 12.14.(p)** Article 21C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended
8 by adding a new section to read:

9 "**§ 143-215.125A. Annual fee.**

10 The Department shall charge permittees an annual fee of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per
11 permitted turbine payable on or before September 1 for the previous fiscal year to be applied to
12 the costs of administering this Article. The Department may charge a late fee of seventy-five
13 dollars (\$75.00) per month per permit for every month or partial month that payment of the
14 annual operating fee is delinquent."

15
16 **PART XIII. LABOR**

17
18 **BE PRO BE PROUD REPORTING**

19 **SECTION 13.1.** The North Carolina Home Builders Educational and Charitable
20 Foundation shall submit a report by April 1 of each year in which it spends State funds
21 appropriated by this act for the Be Pro Be Proud initiative to the chairs of the Joint Legislative
22 Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal
23 Research Division regarding the activities undertaken with the funds appropriated by this section.
24

25 **PART XIV. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

26
27 **NC SYMPHONY CHALLENGE GRANT**

28 **SECTION 14.1.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Natural
29 and Cultural Resources, the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in recurring funds for each
30 year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be allocated to the North Carolina Symphony as
31 provided in this section. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the North Carolina
32 Symphony raise at least six million dollars (\$6,000,000) in non-State funds for the 2023-2024
33 fiscal year and seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) in non-State funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal
34 year. The North Carolina Symphony cannot use funds transferred from the organization's
35 endowment to its operating budget to achieve the fundraising targets set out in subsections (b)
36 and (c) of this section.

37 **SECTION 14.1.(b)** For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the North Carolina Symphony
38 shall receive allocations from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as follows:

- 39 (1) Upon raising the initial sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in non-State
40 funding, the North Carolina Symphony shall receive the sum of six hundred
41 thousand dollars (\$600,000).
- 42 (2) Upon raising an additional sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in
43 non-State funding for a total amount of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in
44 non-State funds, the North Carolina Symphony shall receive the sum of seven
45 hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000).
- 46 (3) Upon raising an additional sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in
47 non-State funding for a total amount of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) in
48 non-State funds, the North Carolina Symphony shall receive the final sum of
49 seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

50 **SECTION 14.1.(c)** For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the North Carolina Symphony
51 shall receive allocations from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as follows:

- 1 (1) Upon raising the initial sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in non-State
2 funding, the North Carolina Symphony shall receive the sum of six hundred
3 thousand dollars (\$600,000).
- 4 (2) Upon raising an additional sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in
5 non-State funding for a total amount of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in
6 non-State funds, the North Carolina Symphony shall receive the sum of seven
7 hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000).
- 8 (3) Upon raising an additional sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in
9 non-State funding for a total amount of seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) in
10 non-State funds, the North Carolina Symphony shall receive the final sum of
11 seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
12

13 **RENAME SECCA**

14 **SECTION 14.2.** The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall rename
15 the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art as the North Carolina Museum of Art–
16 Winston-Salem.
17

18 **ACCESSIBLE PARKS GRANTS**

19 **SECTION 14.4.(a)** Grant Purposes. – Of the funds appropriated in this act from the
20 interest earned in the State Fiscal Recovery Reserve to the Department of Natural and Cultural
21 Resources, the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is allocated to the Parks and Recreation
22 Trust Fund to provide matching grants to local parks facilities for persons with disabilities and
23 shall be used exclusively for grants to local government units or public authorities, as defined in
24 G.S. 159-7, for construction of special facilities or adaptation of existing facilities that meet the
25 unique needs of persons with disabilities or that enable them to participate in recreational and
26 sporting activities, regardless of their abilities.

27 **SECTION 14.4.(b)** Match. – Notwithstanding any provision of G.S. 143B-135.56
28 to the contrary, a local government unit or public authority receiving a grant under this section
29 shall provide matching funds in the amount of one dollar (\$1.00) of local funds for every five
30 dollars (\$5.00) of State funds.

31 **SECTION 14.4.(c)** Limitation. – Grants made under this section shall not exceed
32 five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per project.
33

34 **GREAT TRAILS STATE PROGRAM**

35 **SECTION 14.6.(a)** Of the funds appropriated from the interest earned in the State
36 Fiscal Recovery Reserve to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, five million
37 dollars (\$5,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is allocated to the Great
38 Trails Fund established in subsection (c) of this section to be used for new trail development and
39 extension of existing trails as described in subsection (c) of this section.

40 **SECTION 14.6.(b)** Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- 41 (1) Department. – The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
- 42 (2) Eligible entity. – Any of the following:
- 43 a. A municipality or county.
- 44 b. A regional council of government created pursuant to Part 2 of Article
45 20 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes.
- 46 c. A public authority, as defined in G.S. 159-7.
- 47 d. A nonprofit entity, provided the entity demonstrates in a manner
48 acceptable to the Department that the unit or units of local government
49 where the eligible trail project will be conducted have been notified of
50 and support the trail project.
- 51 (3) Eligible trail project. – Any of the following:

- 1 a. Planning, design, and related environmental assessment or permitting
- 2 activities for trails.
- 3 b. Land and easement acquisition for trails.
- 4 c. Construction of trails and trail structures.
- 5 d. Trail amenities.
- 6 e. Maintenance activities, which includes rehabilitation of trails and trail
- 7 structures, the installation of water bars, the relocation of eroded trail
- 8 segments, and other activities that will mitigate erosion or
- 9 deterioration of trails or prevent future erosion or deterioration of
- 10 trails.
- 11 f. Matching funds for grants awarded by the federal government or any
- 12 other non-State source or entity to an eligible entity for any of the
- 13 purposes set forth in this subdivision.
- 14 (4) Secretary. – The Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural
- 15 Resources.
- 16 (5) Trail. – Includes paved trails or greenways, natural surface trails, biking trails,
- 17 equestrian trails, and any other type of trail recognized by the Department.
- 18 The term does not include a series of tourism attractions related to a particular
- 19 theme that are jointly marketed based on that theme and are interconnected
- 20 only by vehicular roadways.
- 21 (6) Trail amenities. – Markers, signage, benches, water fountains, restroom
- 22 facilities, bathhouses, campsites, docks, boat ramps, parking facilities, picnic
- 23 facilities, equipment rental facilities, and other improvements or structures
- 24 intended to enhance visitor experience for trail users.
- 25 (7) Trail structures. – Bridges, boardwalks, retaining walls, and other structures
- 26 that are necessary for visitors to use the trail to travel from one location to
- 27 another. For paddle trails, trail structures includes waterway access points and
- 28 watercraft launch structures.

29 **SECTION 14.6.(c) Fund Created.** – The Great Trails State Program is established as
30 a special fund within the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. These funds shall be
31 used by the Department to provide grants to an eligible entity for eligible trail projects, with
32 priority given to projects for the purposes set forth in sub-subdivisions a., b., and c. of subdivision
33 (3) of subsection (b) of this section. The following requirements and limitations apply to these
34 grants:

- 35 (1) The Department is authorized to accept applications for grants authorized by
- 36 this section and evaluate them based on criteria that includes the amount of
- 37 additional funding being provided from other sources for the proposed project,
- 38 current access to trails and other outdoor recreational facilities in the area of
- 39 the proposed project, and the size and demographics of the population served
- 40 by the proposed project. Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-135.56, an eligible entity
- 41 receiving a grant from the Department shall provide a match as set forth in
- 42 this subsection.
- 43 (2) Match. – Grants shall be matched by an eligible entity receiving a grant as
- 44 follows:
 - 45 a. The Department may determine the amount of match based on the
 - 46 wealth of the county where the trail project is located. In the case of
 - 47 trail projects in more than one county, the match shall be based on the
 - 48 lowest wealth county.
 - 49 b. The match shall be no greater than one non-State dollar (\$1.00) for
 - 50 every one dollar (\$1.00) from the Fund, and no less than one non-State
 - 51 dollar (\$1.00) for every four dollars (\$4.00) from the Fund.

1 c. The match may include cash, fee waivers, in-kind services, the
2 donation of assets, the provision of infrastructure, or a combination of
3 these. Non-cash matches must be quantifiable and documented in a
4 manner as the Department may specify.

5 (3) Limitation. – Grants made under this subsection shall not exceed five hundred
6 thousand dollars (\$500,000) per project.

7 **SECTION 14.6.(d) Reports.** – The Department shall provide an initial report no later
8 than October 1, 2023, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural
9 and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division regarding the process for awarding
10 grants and the metrics the Department intends to use in evaluating grant applications for the Great
11 Trails Fund pursuant to this section. Thereafter, the Department shall report annually no later
12 than October 11 regarding the use of funds allocated by this section. The annual report will
13 include a list of grant recipients and amounts, a description of trail projects funded, and a
14 summary of non-State funds leveraged with grant funding. The Department may discontinue
15 annual reporting upon providing a final summary report after it awards all funds allocated by this
16 section. These reports may be included as a part of the report required by G.S. 143B-135.102.

17 **SECTION 14.6.(e) Administrative Expenses.** – The Department may use up to one
18 percent (1%) of the funds appropriated by this section for operating and administrative expenses.
19

20 **LAND AND WATER FUND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

21 **SECTION 14.8.** G.S. 143B-135.234 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

22 "(e) Administrative Expenses. – Of the funds appropriated to the Fund, the Trustees may
23 use no more than three percent (3%) for operating expenses associated with programs and
24 activities authorized by this Part."
25

26 **AMERICA'S 250TH LOCAL GRANTS**

27 **SECTION 14.9.** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Natural and
28 Cultural Resources (the Department) for America's 250th Local Grants shall be used for a grant
29 program to facilitate participation in America's 250th anniversary activities. The Department
30 shall use up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in fiscal year 2023-2024 for grants of ten
31 thousand dollars (\$10,000) each to county governments whose county commissioners have
32 adopted a resolution creating a commemoration committee or otherwise designated a group to
33 ensure North Carolina's commemoration of the semiquincentennial occurs in their county. The
34 Department shall use up to six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) in fiscal year 2024-2025 to
35 provide matching grants to local governments and nonprofits for commemoration activities,
36 including revolutionary war research, development of educational resources, wayside
37 installation, and event needs. The Department may consider county tier designations under
38 G.S. 143B-437.08, for the county in which the project is located, in determining match amounts
39 awarded under this section. The Department may use up to five percent (5%) of the funds to
40 administer the grant program and provide technical assistance to counties.
41

42 **AMERICA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**

43 **SECTION 14.10.(a)** There is created the America's Semiquincentennial Committee
44 (the Committee).

45 **SECTION 14.10.(b) Membership.** – The Committee shall be composed of seven
46 members, as follows:

47 (1) Three members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of
48 whom shall be a member of the Senate and the remainder of whom shall be
49 members of the public.

1 (2) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
2 one of whom shall be a member of the House of Representatives and the
3 remainder of whom shall be members of the public.

4 (3) One member jointly appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
5 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives who shall be a noted historian
6 with expertise regarding the American Revolution.

7 **SECTION 14.10.(c) Terms; Chairs; Vacancies; Quorum.** – Members shall serve a
8 term of three years. The Committee shall have two cochairs which shall be the legislative member
9 designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the legislative member designated by
10 the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Committee shall meet upon the call of the
11 cochairs. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. A quorum of the Committee shall
12 be a majority of the members.

13 **SECTION 14.10.(d) Duties.** – The Committee shall (i) study appropriate means for
14 the State to celebrate the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our nation and (ii)
15 report the means and anticipated costs of the celebratory events to the General Assembly.

16 **SECTION 14.10.(e) Compensation; Administration.** – Members of the Committee
17 shall receive subsistence and travel allowances at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or
18 138-6, as appropriate. The Committee may contract for consultants or hire employees in
19 accordance with G.S. 120-32.02. The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative
20 Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist the Committee in its work. Upon the
21 direction of the Legislative Services Commission, the Directors of Legislative Assistants of the
22 Senate and of the House of Representatives shall assign clerical staff to the Committee. The
23 expenses for clerical employees shall be borne by the Committee.

24 **SECTION 14.10.(f) Reports; Termination.** – The Committee shall make an interim
25 report to the 2025 Regular Session of the 2025 General Assembly and a final report to the 2026
26 Regular Session of the 2025 General Assembly no later than January 14, 2026. The Committee
27 shall terminate on January 15, 2026.

28 **SECTION 14.10.(g)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
29

30 **PART XV. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

31 **COMMISSION BASE BUDGET CORRECTION**

32 **SECTION 15.1.** During the budget certification process for the 2023-2024 fiscal
33 year, the Wildlife Resources Commission, in conjunction with the Office of State Budget and
34 Management (OSBM), shall redistribute two million two hundred forty-nine thousand nine
35 dollars (\$2,249,009) from the over-realized receipts departmentwide reserve to the appropriate
36 fund codes in the General Fund used to support Commission operations. In the redistribution of
37 receipts directed by this section, the Commission and OSBM shall neither increase or decrease
38 the Commission's net General Fund appropriation, nor create a negative General Fund
39 appropriation at the fund code level.
40

41 **RENAME OUTDOOR HERITAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

42 **SECTION 15.2.(a)** Part 36 of Article 7 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes
43 reads as rewritten:
44

45 "Part 36. ~~Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council~~. North Carolina Youth Outdoor Engagement
46 Commission.

47 "**§ 143B-344.60. ~~Outdoor heritage advisory council~~. North Carolina Youth Outdoor**
48 **Engagement Commission.**

49 (a) The ~~Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council~~ North Carolina Youth Outdoor Engagement
50 Commission (hereinafter "Commission") is established within the North Carolina Wildlife
51 Resources Commission for organizational and budgetary purposes only. The ~~Council~~

1 Commission shall exercise all of its statutory powers independent of control by the Executive
2 Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission. The ~~Council-Commission~~ shall (i) advise State
3 agencies and the General Assembly on the promotion of outdoor recreational activities,
4 including, but not limited to, hiking, horseback riding, boating, sport shooting and archery, bird
5 watching and wildlife watching, camping, swimming, hunting, trapping, and fishing in order to
6 preserve North Carolina's outdoor heritage for future ~~generations~~generations and (ii) use grants
7 and programming to promote the outdoor recreational activities described in this subsection.

8 (b) The ~~Council-Commission~~ shall consist of 13 members, appointed as follows:

- 9 (1) Four members appointed by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation
10 of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- 11 (2) Four members appointed by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation
12 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 13 (3) Three members appointed by the Governor.
- 14 (4) One member appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.
- 15 (5) One member appointed by the chair of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

16 All members of the ~~Council-Commission~~ shall have knowledge and experience in outdoor
17 recreational activities and have a demonstrated interest in promoting outdoor heritage.

18 (c) The terms of the initial members of the ~~Council-Commission~~ shall commence October
19 1, 2015. Of the Governor's initial appointments, one member shall be designated to serve a term
20 of three years, one member shall be designated to serve a term of two years, and one member
21 shall be designated to serve a term of one year. Of the initial appointments by the President Pro
22 Tempore of the Senate, one member shall be designated to serve a term of three years, one
23 member shall be designated to serve a term of two years, and one member shall be designated to
24 serve a term of one year. Of the initial appointments by the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives, one member shall be designated to serve a term of three years, one member shall
26 be designated to serve a term of two years, and one member shall be designated to serve a term
27 of one year. The members appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and the chair of the
28 Wildlife Resources Commission shall each serve an initial term of four years. After the initial
29 appointees' terms have expired, all members shall be appointed for a term of four years.

30 Any appointment to fill a vacancy on the ~~Council-Commission~~ created by the resignation,
31 dismissal, death, or disability of a member shall be for the balance of the unexpired term.

32 (d) The initial chair of the ~~Council-Commission~~ shall be designated by the Governor from
33 the ~~Council-Commission~~ members. Subsequent chairs shall be elected by the ~~Council~~
34 Commission for terms of two years.

35 (e) The ~~Council-Commission~~ shall meet quarterly and at other times at the call of the
36 chair. A majority of members of the ~~Council-Commission~~ shall constitute a quorum.

37 (f) ~~Council-Commission~~ members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the
38 performance of their duties in accordance with G.S. 138-5 and G.S. 138-6, as applicable. The
39 reimbursements authorized by this subsection may be provided from the North Carolina ~~Outdoor~~
40 Heritage Trust Fund for Youth Outdoor Heritage Promotion. Youth Outdoor Engagement Fund.

41 (g) The Executive Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide clerical
42 and other assistance as needed, including, but not limited to, office space, transportation support,
43 and support for equipment and information technology needs of the ~~Council-Commission~~.

44 (h) The ~~Council-Commission~~ shall be exempt from Article 3 of Chapter 143 of the
45 General Statutes but may use the services of the Department of Administration in procuring
46 goods and services for the ~~Council-Commission~~.

47 **§ 143B-344.62. Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council—North Carolina Youth Outdoor**
48 **Engagement Commission – executive director; staff.**

49 The ~~Council-Commission~~ may, subject to appropriations or other funds that accrue to it,
50 employ an executive director to carry out the day-to-day responsibilities and business of the
51 ~~Council-Commission~~. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~Council-~~

1 Commission. The executive director, also subject to appropriations or other funds that accrue to
2 the ~~Council, Commission~~, may hire additional staff and consultants to assist in the discharge of
3 the executive director's responsibilities, as determined by the ~~Council, Commission~~.

4 "**§ 143B-344.64. ~~Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council North Carolina Youth Outdoor~~**
5 **Engagement Commission – report.**

6 On or before December 1, 2019, and at least annually thereafter, the ~~Council, Commission~~
7 shall submit a report to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture
8 and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division regarding its activities,
9 initiatives, partnerships, and use of donated and appropriated funds."

10 **SECTION 15.2.(b)** G.S. 126-5(c1)(36) reads as rewritten:

11 "(36) Employees of the ~~Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council, North Carolina Youth~~
12 Outdoor Engagement Commission."

13 **SECTION 15.2.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
14

15 **PART XVI. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

16
17 **COLLECTION OF WORTHLESS CHECKS**

18 **SECTION 16.1.** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 7A-308(c), the Judicial
19 Department may use any balance remaining in the Collection of Worthless Checks Fund on June
20 30, 2023, for the purchase or repair of office or information technology equipment during the
21 2023-2024 fiscal year and may use any balance remaining in the Collection of Worthless Checks
22 Fund on June 30, 2024, for the purchase or repair of office or information technology equipment
23 during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Prior to using any funds under this section, the Judicial
24 Department shall report to the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations
25 Committees on Justice and Public Safety and the Office of State Budget and Management on the
26 equipment to be purchased or repaired and the reasons for the purchases.
27

28 **MAGISTRATE-CLERK STAFFING PROGRAM**

29 **SECTION 16.2.** G.S. 7A-133 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

30 "(c1) Notwithstanding the minimum staffing numbers in subsection (c) of this section, the
31 clerk of superior court in a county, with the written or emailed consent of the chief district court
32 judge, may hire one deputy or assistant clerk in lieu of one of the magistrate positions allocated
33 to that county. To provide accessibility for law enforcement and citizens, the clerk of superior
34 court's office shall provide some of the services traditionally provided by the magistrates' office
35 during some or all of the regular courthouse hours.

36 The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report by March 1 of each year to the chairs of
37 the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the
38 Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety regarding each of the following:

39 (1) All deputy or assistant clerk positions previously filled pursuant to this
40 subsection if the position remains filled pursuant to this subsection.

41 (2) New deputy or assistant clerk positions filled pursuant to this subsection.
42

43 **CLARIFY TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS**

44 **SECTION 16.3.(a)** G.S. 7A-355, as amended by Section 16.26 of this act, reads as
45 rewritten:

46 "**§ 7A-355. Trial court administrators.**

47 The following districts or sets of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) shall have trial court
48 administrators: ~~Set of districts 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D; District 22, District 27B, and District 28,~~
49 ~~and such administrators, including other districts or sets of districts as may be designated by the~~
50 Administrative Office of the ~~Courts.~~ Courts:
51

- 1 Set of districts 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 10F
- 2 Set of districts 14A, 14B, 14C
- 3 Set of districts 16A, 16B
- 4 Set of districts 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, 24E
- 5 Set of districts 31A, 31B, 31C, 31D
- 6 Set of districts 26A, 26B, 26C, 26D, 26E, 26F, 26G, 26H
- 7 District 39"

8 **SECTION 16.3.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

9
10 **TECHNICAL CHANGES TO ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY ALLOCATIONS**

11 **SECTION 16.4.(a)** G.S. 7A-60(a1) reads as rewritten:

12 "(a1) The counties of the State are organized into prosecutorial districts, and each district
13 has the counties and the number of full-time assistant district attorneys set forth in the following
14 table:

16 Prosecutorial	16 No. of Full-Time Asst. District	
17 District	17 Counties	17 Attorneys
18 ...		
19 10	Wake	<u>4445</u>
20 ...		
21 14	Cumberland	<u>2526</u>
22 ...		
23 26	Mecklenburg	<u>5862</u>
24 ...		
25 31	Forsyth	<u>2728</u>
26 ...		
27 37	Randolph	<u>4011</u>
28 ...		
29 43	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain."	<u>1516</u>

32 **SECTION 16.4.(b)** G.S. 7A-60(a1), as amended by subsection (a) of this section,
33 reads as rewritten:

34 "(a1) The counties of the State are organized into prosecutorial districts, and each district
35 has the counties and the number of full-time assistant district attorneys set forth in the following
36 table:

38 Prosecutorial	38 No. of Full-Time Asst. District	
39 District	39 Counties	39 Attorneys
40 ...		
41 36	Burke, Caldwell	<u>4011</u>
42"		

43 **SECTION 16.4.(c)** Subsection (b) of this section becomes effective January 1, 2027.
44 The remainder of this section becomes effective July 1, 2023.

45
46 **ADDITION OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGES TO MULTIPLE COUNTIES, SPLIT OF**
47 **DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT 43, TECHNICAL CORRECTION FOR**
48 **MAGISTRATE ALLOCATION NUMBERS, AND ADDITION OF MAGISTRATES**
49 **TO MULTIPLE COUNTIES**

50 **SECTION 16.5.(a)** G.S. 7A-133(a), as amended by Section 16.26 of this act, reads
51 as rewritten:

"(a) Each district court district shall have the numbers of judges as set forth in the following table:

District	Judges	County
5	<u>910</u>	Sampson Duplin Jones Onslow
17	<u>45</u>	Alamance
22	<u>45</u>	Caswell Rockingham
34	<u>45</u>	Alleghany Ashe Wilkes Yadkin
43 <u>43A</u>	<u>64</u>	Cherokee Clay Graham Haywood Jackson Macon Swain <u>Swain</u>
<u>43B</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Haywood</u> <u>Jackson.</u> "

SECTION 16.5.(b) G.S. 7A-133(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Each county shall have the numbers of magistrates and additional seats of district court, as set forth in the following table:

County	Magistrates Min.	Additional Seats of Court
Gates	<u>23</u>	
Martin	<u>34</u>	
Pitt	41 <u>513</u>	Farmville Ayden
Jones	<u>23</u>	
New Hanover	12 <u>14</u>	
Pender	<u>4</u> 85	
Hertford	<u>34</u>	
Wake	23 <u>532</u>	Apex, Wendell,

1			Fuquay-Varina,
2			Wake Forest
3	Harnett	<u>87</u>	Dunn
4	...		
5	Cumberland	19 <u>20</u>	
6	Bladen	<u>34</u>	
7	...		
8	Durham	13 <u>18</u>	
9	...		
10	Hoke	<u>34</u>	
11	...		
12	Stokes	<u>34</u>	
13	Surry	<u>65</u>	Mt. Airy
14	Guilford	25. <u>432</u>	High Point
15	Cabarrus	<u>910</u>	Kannapolis
16	Montgomery	<u>34</u>	
17	...		
18	Anson	<u>34</u>	
19	...		
20	Forsyth	16 <u>20</u>	Kernersville
21	Alexander	<u>34</u>	
22	...		
23	Davie	<u>34</u>	
24	...		
25	Alleghany	<u>23</u>	
26	...		
27	Yadkin	<u>34</u>	
28	...		
29	Mecklenburg	31.5 <u>38.5</u>	
30	...		
31	Henderson	6.5 <u>7</u>	
32	McDowell	<u>34</u>	
33	...		
34	Transylvania	<u>34</u>	
35	Cherokee	<u>34</u>	
36	Clay	<u>23</u>	
37	Graham	<u>23</u>	
38	...		
39	Jackson	<u>34</u>	
40	Macon	<u>34</u>	
41"		

42 **SECTION 16.5.(c)** G.S. 7A-133(c), as amended by subsection (b) of this section,
 43 reads as rewritten:

44 "(c) Each county shall have the numbers of magistrates and additional seats of district
 45 court, as set forth in the following table:

47		Magistrates	Additional
48	County	Min.	Seats of Court
49	...		
50	Duplin	<u>45</u>	
51	Jones	<u>34</u>	

1 ...
 2 Stanly 56
 3 ...
 4 Ashe 34
 5"

6 **SECTION 16.5.(d)** Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective January 1, 2025,
 7 and elections conducted in 2024 shall be held accordingly. The remainder of this section becomes
 8 effective July 1, 2023.

9
 10 **MODIFY LOCAL JUDICIALLY MANAGED ACCOUNTABILITY AND RECOVERY**
 11 **COURT REPORTING AND MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTION**

12 **SECTION 16.6.(a)** G.S. 7A-801 reads as rewritten:

13 "**§ 7A-801. Monitoring and annual report.**

14 The Administrative Office of the Courts shall monitor all ~~State-recognized and funded~~ local
 15 judicially managed accountability and recovery courts, prepare an annual report on the
 16 implementation, operation, and effectiveness of the ~~statewide~~ State judicially managed
 17 accountability and recovery court program, and submit the report to the ~~General Assembly chairs~~
 18 of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety by March 1 of
 19 each year. Each judicially managed accountability and recovery court and any court authorized
 20 to remain a drug treatment court under G.S. 7A-802, shall submit evaluation reports to the
 21 Administrative Office of the Courts as requested."

22 **SECTION 16.6.(b)** G.S. 7A-796 reads as rewritten:

23 "**§ 7A-796. Local judicially managed accountability and recovery court committees.**

24 Each judicial district choosing to establish a local judicially managed accountability and
 25 recovery court shall form a local judicially managed accountability and recovery court
 26 committee, which shall be comprised to assure representation appropriate to the type or types of
 27 local judicially managed accountability and recovery court operations to be conducted in the
 28 district and shall consist of persons appointed by the senior resident superior court judge with the
 29 concurrence of the chief district court judge and the district attorney for that district, chosen from
 30 the following list:

- 31 ...
 32 (20) Any other persons selected by the local ~~management~~ judicially managed
 33 accountability and recovery court committee.

34 The local ~~drug treatment~~ judicially managed accountability and recovery court ~~management~~
 35 committee shall develop local guidelines and procedures, not inconsistent with the State
 36 guidelines, that are necessary for the operation and evaluation of the local ~~drug treatment~~
 37 judicially managed accountability and recovery court."

38 **SECTION 16.6.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

39
 40 **ADD SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE TO SUPERIOR COURT DISTRICTS 2 AND 38**

41 **SECTION 16.7.(a)** G.S. 7A-41(a), as amended by Section 16.26 of this act, reads as
 42 rewritten:

43 "(a) The counties of the State are organized into judicial divisions and superior court
 44 districts, and each superior court district has the counties, and the number of regular resident
 45 superior court judges set forth in the following table, and for districts of less than a whole county,
 46 as set out in subsection (b) of this section:

Judicial Division	Superior Court District	Counties	No. of Resident Judges
-------------------	-------------------------	----------	------------------------

50
 51 ...

1	First	2	Beaufort, Hyde,	<u>42</u>
2			Martin,	
3			Tyrrell, Washington	
4	...			
5	Fifth	38	Gaston	<u>23</u>
6"			

7 **SECTION 16.7.(b)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2025, and elections
8 conducted in 2024 shall be held accordingly.

9
10 **REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR THE NC LEGAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE**
11 **FOUNDATION (NC LEAF) AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FUNDS**

12 **SECTION 16.9.(a)** No later than February 1 of each fiscal year of the 2023-2025
13 fiscal biennium, the NC Legal Education Assistance Foundation (NC LEAF) shall report to the
14 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, at a minimum, all of the
15 following:

- 16 (1) An accounting of all loan repayment assistance funds distributed during the
17 prior year.
- 18 (2) The number of individuals that received funds from the Foundation during the
19 prior year.
- 20 (3) The job titles and salaries of the individuals that received funds from the
21 Foundation during the prior year.

22 **SECTION 16.9.(b)** Funds provided to the North Carolina Legal Education
23 Assistance Foundation (NC LEAF) for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall not be used to
24 provide assistance to attorneys working for Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.

25 **SECTION 16.9.(c)** Subsection (b) of this section becomes effective July 1, 2023.
26 The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

27
28 **RAISE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR APPELLATE JUDGES**

29 **SECTION 16.14.(a)** Article 1B of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is repealed.

30 **SECTION 16.14.(b)** G.S. 7A-5 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 7A-5. ~~Organization.~~Organization and age limit for service as justice or judge.**

32 (a) The appellate division of the General Court of Justice consists of the Supreme Court
33 and the Court of Appeals.

34 (b) No justice or judge of the appellate division of the General Court of Justice may
35 continue in office beyond the last day of the month in which the justice or judge attains 76 years
36 of age, but justices and judges so retired may be recalled for periods of temporary service as
37 provided in this Subchapter."

38 **SECTION 16.14.(c)** G.S. 7A-39.3(a) reads as rewritten:

39 (a) Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals who have not
40 reached the mandatory retirement age specified in G.S. 7A-4.20, G.S. 7A-5(b), but who have
41 retired under the provisions of G.S. 7A-39.2, or under the Uniform Judicial Retirement Act after
42 having completed 12 years of creditable service, may apply as provided in G.S. 7A-39.6 to
43 become emergency justices or judges and upon being commissioned as an emergency justice or
44 emergency judge shall be subject to temporary recall to active service in place of a justice or
45 judge who is temporarily incapacitated as provided in G.S. 7A-39.5."

46 **SECTION 16.14.(d)** G.S. 7A-39.6 reads as rewritten:

47 **"§ 7A-39.6. Application to the Governor; commission as emergency justice or emergency**
48 **judge.**

49 No retired justice of the Supreme Court or retired judge of the Court of Appeals may become
50 an emergency justice or emergency judge except upon his written application to the Governor
51 certifying his desire and ability to serve as an emergency justice or emergency judge. If the

1 Governor is satisfied that the applicant qualifies under G.S. 7A-39.3(a) to become an emergency
 2 justice or emergency judge and that he is physically and mentally able to perform the official
 3 duties of an emergency justice or emergency judge, he shall issue to such applicant a commission
 4 as an emergency justice or emergency judge of the court from which he retired. The commission
 5 shall be effective upon the date of its issue and shall terminate when the judge to whom it is
 6 issued reaches the maximum age for judicial service under ~~G.S. 7A-4.20(a)~~. G.S. 7A-5(b)."

7 **SECTION 16.14.(e)** G.S. 7A-39.15(a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a) A retired justice or judge of the Appellate Division of the General Court of Justice is
 9 eligible to be appointed as an emergency recall judge of the Court of Appeals ~~under if the justice~~
 10 or judge meets each of the following circumstances; requirements:

- 11 (1) The justice or judge has retired under the provisions of the Consolidated
 12 Judicial Retirement Act, Article 4 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes, or
 13 is eligible to receive a retirement allowance under that ~~act~~.
 14 (2) The justice or judge has not reached the mandatory retirement age specified
 15 in ~~G.S. 7A-4.20~~; G.S. 7A-5(b).
 16 (3) The justice or judge has served a total of at least five years as a judge or justice
 17 of the General Court of Justice, provided that at least six months was served
 18 in the Appellate Division, whether or not otherwise eligible to serve as an
 19 emergency justice or judge of the Appellate Division of the General Court of
 20 ~~Justice~~; Justice.
 21 (4) The judicial service of the justice or judge ended within the preceding 15
 22 ~~years~~; and years.
 23 (5) The justice or judge has applied to the Governor for appointment as an
 24 emergency recall judge of the Court of Appeals in the same manner as is
 25 provided for application in G.S. 7A-53. If the Governor is satisfied that the
 26 applicant meets the requirements of this section and is physically and mentally
 27 able to perform the duties of a judge of the Court of Appeals, the Governor
 28 shall issue a commission appointing the applicant as an emergency recall
 29 judge of the Court of Appeals until the applicant reaches the mandatory
 30 retirement age for judges of the Court of Appeals specified in
 31 ~~G.S. 7A-4.20~~. G.S. 7A-5(b).

32 Any former justice or judge of the Appellate Division of the General Court of Justice who
 33 otherwise meets the requirements of this section to be appointed an emergency recall judge of
 34 the Court of Appeals, but who has already reached the mandatory retirement age for judges of
 35 the Court of Appeals set forth in ~~G.S. 7A-4.20~~, G.S. 7A-5(b), may apply to the Governor to be
 36 appointed as an emergency recall judge of the Court of Appeals as provided in this section. If the
 37 Governor issues a commission to the applicant, the retired justice or judge is subject to recall as
 38 an emergency recall judge of the Court of Appeals as provided in this section."

39 **SECTION 16.14.(f)** Article 7 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by
 40 adding a new section to read:

41 **"§ 7A-40.1. Age limit for service as superior court judge; exception.**

42 No superior court judge may continue in office beyond the last day of the month in which the
 43 superior court judge attains 72 years of age, but superior court judges so retired may be recalled
 44 for periods of temporary service as provided in this Subchapter."

45 **SECTION 16.14.(g)** G.S. 7A-45.2 reads as rewritten:

46 **"§ 7A-45.2. Emergency special judges of the superior court; qualifications, appointment,**
 47 **removal, and authority.**

48 (a) Any justice or judge of the appellate division of the General Court of Justice ~~who~~; that
 49 meets each of the following requirements may apply to the Governor for appointment as an
 50 emergency special superior court judge in the same manner as is provided for application as an
 51 emergency superior court judge in G.S. 7A-53:

- 1 (1) Retires under the provisions of the Consolidated Judicial Retirement Act,
 2 Article 4 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes, or who is eligible to receive
 3 a retirement allowance under that ~~act~~act.
- 4 (2) Has not reached the mandatory retirement age specified in
 5 ~~G.S. 7A-4-20~~G.S. 7A-5(b).
- 6 (3) Has served at least five years as a superior court judge or five years as a justice
 7 or judge of the appellate division of the General Court of Justice, or any
 8 combination thereof, whether or not eligible to serve as an emergency justice
 9 or judge of the appellate division of the General Court of ~~Justice~~Justice.
- 10 (4) Whose judicial service ended within the preceding 10 ~~years~~years.
 11 ~~may apply to the Governor for appointment as an emergency special superior court judge in the~~
 12 ~~same manner as is provided for application as an emergency superior court judge in G.S. 7A-53.~~
 13 If the Governor is satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of this section and is
 14 physically and mentally able to perform the duties of a superior court judge, the Governor shall
 15 issue a commission appointing the applicant as an emergency special superior court judge until
 16 the applicant reaches the mandatory retirement age for superior court judges specified in
 17 ~~G.S. 7A-4-20~~G.S. 7A-40.1.
- 18 (b) Any emergency special superior court judge appointed as provided in this section
 19 shall:
- 20 (1) Have the same powers and duties, when duly assigned to hold court, as
 21 provided for an emergency superior court judge by ~~G.S. 7A-48~~G.S. 7A-48.
- 22 (2) Be subject to assignment in the same manner as provided for an emergency
 23 superior court judge by G.S. 7A-46 and ~~G.S. 7A-52(a)~~G.S. 7A-52(a).
- 24 (3) Receive the same compensation, expenses, and allowances, when assigned to
 25 hold court, as an emergency superior court judge as provided by
 26 ~~G.S. 7A-52(b)~~G.S. 7A-52(b).
- 27 (4) Be subject to the provisions and requirements of the Canons of Judicial
 28 ~~Conduct~~Conduct.
- 29 ...
- 30 (c) Upon reaching mandatory retirement age for superior court judges as set forth in
 31 ~~G.S. 7A-4-20~~G.S. 7A-40.1, any emergency special superior court judge appointed pursuant to
 32 this section, whose commission has expired, may be recalled as a recalled emergency special
 33 superior court judge to preside over any regular or special session of the superior court ~~under if~~
 34 each of the following circumstances~~requirements~~ is satisfied:
- 35 (1) The judge shall consent to the ~~recall~~recall.
- 36 (2) The Chief Justice may order the ~~recall~~recall.
- 37 (3) Prior to ordering recall, the Chief Justice shall be satisfied that the recalled
 38 judge is capable of efficiently and promptly discharging the duties of the
 39 office to which ~~recalled~~recalled.
- 40 (4) Jurisdiction of a recalled emergency special superior court judge is as set forth
 41 in ~~G.S. 7A-48~~G.S. 7A-48.
- 42 (5) Orders of recall and assignment shall be in writing and entered upon the
 43 minutes of the court to which ~~assigned~~and the judge is assigned.
- 44 ...
- 45 (d) Any former justice or judge of the appellate division of the General Court of Justice
 46 who otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to be appointed an
 47 emergency special superior court judge but has already reached the mandatory retirement age for
 48 superior court judges set forth in ~~G.S. 7A-4-20~~G.S. 7A-40.1 on retirement may, in lieu of serving
 49 as an emergency judge of the court from which he retired, apply to the Governor to be appointed
 50 as an emergency special superior court judge as provided in this section. If the Governor issues

1 a commission to the applicant, the retired justice or judge is subject to recall as an emergency
2 special superior court judge as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

3"

4 **SECTION 16.14.(h)** G.S. 7A-52(a) reads as rewritten:

5 "(a) Judges of the district court and judges of the superior court who have not reached the
6 mandatory retirement age specified in ~~G.S. 7A-4.20, G.S. 7A-40.1 and G.S. 7A-140.1,~~
7 respectively, but who have retired under the provisions of G.S. 7A-51, or under the Uniform
8 Judicial Retirement Act after having completed five years of creditable service, may apply as
9 provided in G.S. 7A-53 to become emergency judges of the court from which they retired. From
10 the commissioned emergency district, superior, and special superior court judges, the Chief
11 Justice of the Supreme Court shall create two lists of active emergency judges and two lists of
12 inactive emergency judges. For emergency superior and special superior court judges, the active
13 list shall be limited to a combined total of 10 emergency judges; all other emergency superior
14 and special superior court judges shall be on an inactive list. For emergency district court judges,
15 the active list shall be limited to 25 emergency judges; all other emergency district court judges
16 shall be on an inactive list. There is no limit to the number of emergency judges on either inactive
17 list. In the Chief Justice's discretion, emergency judges may be added or removed from their
18 respective active and inactive lists, as long as the respective numerical limits on the active lists
19 are observed. The Chief Justice is requested to consider geographical distribution in assigning
20 emergency judges to an active list but may utilize any factor in determining which emergency
21 judges are assigned to an active list. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may order any
22 emergency district, superior, or special superior court judge on an active list who, in ~~his~~ the Chief
23 Justice's opinion, is competent to perform the duties of a ~~judge,~~ judge and to hold regular or
24 special sessions of the court from which the judge retired, as needed. Order of assignment shall
25 be in writing and entered upon the minutes of the court to which ~~such~~ the emergency judge is
26 assigned. An emergency judge shall only be assigned in the event of a:

27"

28 **SECTION 16.14.(i)** G.S. 7A-53 reads as rewritten:

29 **"§ 7A-53. Application to the Governor; commission as emergency judge.**

30 No retired judge of the district or superior court may become an emergency judge except
31 upon ~~his~~ the judge's written application to the Governor certifying ~~his~~ the judge's desire and
32 ability to serve as an emergency judge. If the Governor is satisfied that the applicant qualifies
33 under G.S. 7A-52(a) to become an emergency judge and ~~that he~~ the applicant is physically and
34 mentally able to perform the official duties of an emergency judge, ~~he~~ the Governor shall issue
35 to ~~such~~ the applicant a commission as an emergency judge of the court from which ~~he~~ the
36 applicant retired. The commission shall be effective upon the date of its issue and shall terminate
37 when the judge to whom it is issued reaches the maximum age for judicial service under
38 ~~G.S. 7A-4.20(a), G.S. 7A-40.1 or G.S. 7A-140.1, whichever is applicable.~~"

39 **SECTION 16.14.(j)** Article 14 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by
40 adding a new section to read:

41 **"§ 7A-140.1. Age limit for service as district judge; exception.**

42 No district judge may continue in office beyond the last day of the month in which the district
43 judge attains 72 years of age, but district judges so retired may be recalled for periods of
44 temporary service as provided in this Subchapter."

45 **SECTION 16.14.(k)** G.S. 7A-170(b) reads as rewritten:

46 "(b) No magistrate may continue in office beyond the last day of the month in which the
47 magistrate reaches the mandatory retirement age for ~~justices and~~ district judges of the General
48 Court of Justice specified in ~~G.S. 7A-4.20, G.S. 7A-140.1.~~"

49 **SECTION 16.14.(l)** G.S. 135-57(b) reads as rewritten:

50 "(b) Any member who is a justice or judge of the General Court of Justice shall be
51 automatically retired as of the ~~first~~ last day of the calendar month ~~coinciding with or next~~

1 following the later of January 1, 1974, or his attainment of his seventy-second birthday; provided,
 2 however, that no judge who is a member on January 1, 1974, shall be forced to retire under the
 3 provisions of this subsection at an earlier date than the last day that he is permitted to remain in
 4 office under the provisions of G.S. 7A-4.20 in which the justice or judge reaches the maximum
 5 age for judicial service under G.S. 7A-5(b), 7A-40.1, or 7A-140.1, whichever is applicable."

6 **SECTION 16.14.(m)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
 7 justices, judges, and magistrates serving on or after that date, provided that nothing in this section
 8 shall be construed to automatically halt the retirement process of a justice, judge, or magistrate
 9 that has already initiated that process.

10
 11 **MODIFY MEMBERS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE SENTENCING
 12 AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
 13 SENTENCING AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

14 **SECTION 16.16.(a)** G.S. 164-37 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 164-37. Membership; chairman; meetings; quorum.**

16 The Commission shall consist of ~~28-29~~ members as follows:

- 17 (1) The Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court shall appoint a sitting
 18 or former Justice or judge of the General Court of Justice, who shall serve as
 19 Chairman of the ~~Commission;~~Commission.
- 20 (2) The Chief Judge of the North Carolina Court of Appeals, or another judge on
 21 the Court of Appeals, serving as ~~his designee;~~the Chief Judge's designee.
- 22 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction or ~~his designee;~~the
 23 Secretary's designee.
- 24 ...
- 25 (5) The Chairman of the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission, or ~~his~~
 26 ~~designee;~~the Chairman's designee.
- 27 (6) The President of the Conference of Superior Court Judges or ~~his designee;~~the
 28 President's designee.
- 29 (7) The President of the District Court Judges Association or ~~his designee;~~the
 30 President's designee.
- 31 (8) The President of the North Carolina Sheriff's Association or ~~his designee;~~the
 32 President's designee.
- 33 (9) The President of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police or ~~his~~
 34 ~~designee;~~the President's designee.
- 35 (10) One member of the public at large, who is not currently licensed to practice
 36 law in North Carolina, to be appointed by the ~~Governor;~~Governor.
- 37 (11) One member to be appointed by the Lieutenant ~~Governor;~~Governor.
- 38 (12) Three members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the
 39 Speaker of the ~~House;~~House.
- 40 (13) Three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore
 41 of the ~~Senate;~~Senate.
- 42 (14) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint the representative of
 43 the North Carolina System of Community Sentencing Association-Colleges
 44 who has knowledge of programs provided to offenders in the criminal justice
 45 system or to juveniles in the juvenile justice system that is recommended by
 46 the President of that ~~organization;~~organization.
- 47 (15) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the member of the
 48 business community that is recommended by the President of the North
 49 Carolina Retail Merchants ~~Association;~~Association.

- 1 (16) The Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court shall appoint the
 2 criminal defense attorney that is recommended by the President of the North
 3 Carolina ~~Academy of Trial Lawyers;~~Advocates for Justice.
 4 (17) The President of the Conference of District Attorneys or ~~his designee;~~the
 5 President's designee.
 6 (18) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint the member of the North Carolina
 7 Victim Assistance Network that is recommended by the President of that
 8 ~~organization;~~organization.
 9 (19) A rehabilitated former prison inmate, to be appointed by the Chairman of the
 10 ~~Commission;~~Commission.
 11 (20) The President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners or
 12 ~~his designee;~~the President's designee.
 13 (21) The Governor shall appoint the member of the academic community, with a
 14 background in criminal justice or corrections policy, that is recommended by
 15 the President of The University of North ~~Carolina;~~Carolina.
 16 (22) The Attorney General, or a member of ~~his the Attorney General's~~ staff, to be
 17 appointed by the Attorney ~~General;~~General.
 18 ...
 19 (24) ~~A member of the Justice Fellowship Task Force, who is a resident of North~~
 20 ~~Carolina, citizen of this State who works in either the criminal justice system~~
 21 ~~or the juvenile justice system, depending on the current work of the~~
 22 ~~Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, to be appointed by the~~
 23 ~~Chairman of the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission.~~
 24 (25) The President of the ~~Association~~North Carolina Conference of Clerks of
 25 ~~Superior Court of North Carolina, Court, or his designee.~~the President's
 26 designee.
 27 ...
 28 (27) The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety or the Secretary's designee.

29 The Commission shall have its initial meeting no later than September 1, 1990, at the call of
 30 the Chairman. The Commission shall meet a minimum of four regular meetings each year. The
 31 Commission may also hold special meetings at the call of the Chairman, or by any four members
 32 of the Commission, upon such notice and in such manner as may be fixed by the rules of the
 33 Commission. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum."

34 **SECTION 16.16.(b)** G.S. 164-47 reads as rewritten:

35 "**§ 164-47. Biennial Report on Recidivism.**

36 The Judicial Department, through the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory
 37 ~~Commission, the Division of Prisons of the Department of Adult Correction, and the Division of~~
 38 ~~Community Supervision and Reentry of Commission and~~ the Department of Adult ~~Correction~~
 39 Correction, shall jointly conduct ongoing evaluations of community corrections programs and
 40 in-prison treatment programs and make a biennial report to the General Assembly. The report
 41 shall include composite measures of program effectiveness based on recidivism rates, other
 42 outcome measures, and costs of the programs.

43 During the 1998-99 fiscal year, the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission shall
 44 coordinate the collection of all data necessary to create an expanded database containing offender
 45 information on prior convictions, current conviction and sentence, program participation, and
 46 outcome measures. Each program to be evaluated shall assist the Commission in the development
 47 of systems and collection of data necessary to complete the evaluation process. The first
 48 evaluation report shall be presented to the Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations
 49 Committees and the Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice
 50 and Public Safety by April 15, 2000, and future reports shall be made by April 15 of each
 51 even-numbered year."

1 **SECTION 16.16.(c)** G.S. 164-50 reads as rewritten:

2 "**§ 164-50. Annual report on implementation of Justice Reinvestment Project.**

3 The Judicial Department, through the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory
4 ~~Commission, Commission~~ and the ~~Division Department of Prisons Adult Correction~~, shall jointly
5 conduct ongoing evaluations regarding the implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act of
6 2011. The Commission shall present the first evaluation report to the Joint Legislative Correction,
7 Crime Control, and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee and to the Chairs of the Senate and
8 House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by April
9 15, 2012, and future reports shall be made annually by April 15 of each year."

10
11 **CONSOLIDATE COURTS IN ROBESON COUNTY**

12 **SECTION 16.17.** No later than January 1, 2025, Robeson County shall cease the use
13 of satellite court locations.

14
15 **CREATE NEW SPECIAL SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES**

16 **SECTION 16.19.(a)** G.S. 7A-45.1 reads as rewritten:

17 "**§ 7A-45.1. Special judges.**

18 ...

19 (a10) Except for the judgeships abolished pursuant to subsection (a8) of this section, and
20 except as provided in subsection (a12) of this section, upon the retirement, resignation, removal
21 from office, death, or expiration of the term of any special superior court judge on or after
22 September 1, 2014, each judgeship shall be filled for a full ~~five-year~~ eight-year term beginning
23 upon the judge's taking office according to the following procedure prescribed by the General
24 Assembly pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(1) of the North Carolina Constitution. As each
25 judgeship becomes vacant or the term expires, the Governor shall submit the name of a nominee
26 for that judgeship to the General Assembly for confirmation by ratified joint resolution. Upon
27 each such confirmation, the Governor shall appoint the confirmed nominee to that judgeship.

28 However, upon the failure of the Governor to submit the name of a nominee within 90 days
29 of the occurrence of the vacancy or within 90 days of the expiration of the judge's term, as
30 applicable, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
31 Representatives jointly shall submit the name of a nominee to the General Assembly. The
32 appointment shall then be made by enactment of a bill. The bill shall state the name of the person
33 being appointed, the office to which the appointment is being made, and the county of residence
34 of the appointee.

35 The Governor may withdraw any nomination prior to it failing on any reading, and in case of
36 such withdrawal the Governor shall submit a different nomination within 45 days of withdrawal.
37 If a nomination shall fail any reading, the Governor shall submit a different nomination within
38 45 days of such failure. In either case of failure to submit a new nomination within 45 days, the
39 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
40 submit the name of a nominee to the General Assembly under the procedure provided in the
41 preceding paragraph.

42 No person shall occupy a special superior court judgeship authorized under this subsection
43 in any capacity, or have any right to, claim upon, or powers of those judgeships, unless that
44 person's nomination has been confirmed by the General Assembly by joint resolution or
45 appointed through the enactment of a bill upon the failure of the Governor to submit a nominee.
46 Until confirmed by the General Assembly and appointed by the Governor, or appointed by the
47 General Assembly upon the failure of the Governor to appoint a nominee, and qualified by taking
48 the oath of office, a nominee is neither a de jure nor a de facto officer.

49 ...

50 (a12) In addition to any other special superior court judges authorized by law, effective
51 January 1, 2024, the General Assembly may appoint by enactment of a bill 10 special superior

1 court judges to serve terms expiring at the earlier of (i) eight years from the date that each judge
 2 takes office or (ii) the date of the judge's death, retirement, resignation, or removal from office.
 3 A bill appointing a special superior court judge under this subsection shall state the name of the
 4 person being appointed, the office to which the appointment is being made, and the judicial
 5 division of residence of the appointee. Five of these judges shall be nominated by the Speaker of
 6 the House of Representatives, one residing in each of the five judicial divisions listed under
 7 G.S. 7A-41, and five shall be nominated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one residing
 8 in each of the five judicial divisions listed under G.S. 7A-41.

9 Upon the natural expiration of the term of a special superior court judge appointed pursuant
 10 to this subsection, or upon the expiration of a term due to a judge's death, retirement, resignation,
 11 or removal from office, a successor shall be appointed to a new term in the same manner and for
 12 the same length as other judges appointed pursuant to this subsection. The legislative officer who
 13 nominated the special superior court judge whose term has ended shall nominate the new special
 14 superior court judge.

15 A special superior court judge takes the same oath of office and is subject to the same
 16 requirements and disabilities as are or may be prescribed by law for regular judges of the superior
 17 court, save the requirement of residence in a particular district.

18 (b) A special judge is subject to removal from office for the same causes and in the
 19 same manner as a regular judge of the superior court, and a vacancy occurring in the office of
 20 special judge-judge, except as provided for in subsection (a12) of this section, is filled by the
 21 Governor by appointment for the unexpired term.

22"

23 **SECTION 16.19.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
 24 special superior court judgeships in place as of April 1, 2023, whether filled or vacant, shall be
 25 extended to an eight-year term. This subsection shall apply to all special superior court judges
 26 currently filling these judgeships, whether serving an appointment for a full term or serving the
 27 remainder of an unexpired term, in which case the unexpired term shall be similarly extended to
 28 be an eight-year term.

30 **MODIFY JUDICIAL STANDARDS COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP**

31 **SECTION 16.20.(a)** G.S. 7A-375(a) reads as rewritten:

32 "(a) Composition. – The Judicial Standards Commission shall consist of the following
 33 residents of North Carolina: ~~two~~

34 (1) Two Court of Appeals judges, ~~two~~ judges, each appointed by the Chief Justice
 35 of the Supreme Court.

36 (2) Two superior court judges, ~~and two~~ judges, each appointed by the Chief
 37 Justice of the Supreme Court.

38 (3) Two district court judges, each appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme
 39 Court; ~~four members of the State Bar who have actively practiced in the courts~~
 40 ~~of the State for at least 10 years, elected by the State Bar Council; and four~~
 41 Court.

42 (4) Four judges appointed by the General Assembly in accordance with
 43 G.S. 120-121, selected as follows:

44 a. One district court judge recommended by the President Pro Tempore
 45 of the Senate.

46 b. One district court judge recommended by the Speaker of the House of
 47 Representatives.

48 c. One superior court judge recommended by the President Pro Tempore
 49 of the Senate.

50 d. One superior court judge recommended by the Speaker of the House
 51 of Representatives.

(5) Four citizens who are not judges, active or retired, nor members of the State Bar, two appointed by the Governor, and two appointed by the General Assembly in accordance with G.S. 120-121, one upon recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one upon recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The General Assembly shall also appoint alternate Commission members for the Commission members the General Assembly has appointed to serve in the event of scheduling conflicts, conflicts of interest, disability, or other disqualification arising in a particular case. The alternate members shall have the same qualifications for appointment as the original members."

SECTION 16.20.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and shall be utilized in the appointment of members to the Judicial Standards Commission following the conclusion of the terms of each of the four members previously elected by the State Bar Council.

FACILITATE DETERMINATIONS REGARDING FACIAL CHALLENGES TO THE VALIDITY OF AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND MODIFY THE PROVISIONS REGARDING APPEALS OF RIGHT TO THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT

SECTION 16.21.(a) G.S. 1-267.1 reads as rewritten:

"Article 26A.

"Three-Judge Panel for Redistricting Challenges and for Certain Challenges to State Laws.

"§ 1-267.1. Three-judge panel for actions challenging plans apportioning or redistricting State legislative or congressional districts; claims challenging the facial validity of an act of the General Assembly.

(a) Any action challenging the validity of any act of the General Assembly that apportions or redistricts State legislative or congressional districts shall be filed in the Superior Court of Wake ~~County and County~~. Any action that is a facial challenge to the validity of an act of the General Assembly shall be, unless filed in the Superior Court of Wake County, transferred pursuant to G.S. 1A-1, Rule 42(b)(4), to the Superior Court of Wake County.

All actions referenced in this subsection shall be heard and determined by a three-judge panel of the Superior Court of Wake County organized as provided by subsection ~~(b)~~ (b2) of this section.

~~(a1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (a) of this section, any facial challenge to the validity of an act of the General Assembly shall be transferred pursuant to G.S. 1A-1, Rule 42(b)(4), to the Superior Court of Wake County and shall be heard and determined by a three judge panel of the Superior Court of Wake County, organized as provided by subsection (b2) of this section.~~

~~(b) Whenever any person files in the Superior Court of Wake County any action challenging the validity of any act of the General Assembly that apportions or redistricts State legislative or congressional districts, a copy of the complaint shall be served upon the senior resident superior court judge of Wake County, who shall be the presiding judge of the three judge panel required by subsection (a) of this section. Upon receipt of that complaint, the senior resident superior court judge of Wake County shall notify the Chief Justice, who shall appoint two additional resident superior court judges to the three judge panel of the Superior Court of Wake County to hear and determine the action. Before making those appointments, the Chief Justice shall consult with the North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges, which shall provide the Chief Justice with a list of recommended appointments. To ensure that members of the three judge panel are drawn from different regions of the State, the Chief Justice shall appoint to the three judge panel one resident superior court judge from the First through Third Judicial Divisions and one resident superior court judge from the Fourth through Fifth Judicial Divisions. In order to ensure fairness, to avoid the appearance of impropriety, and to avoid political bias, no member of the panel, including the senior resident superior court judge of Wake County, may be~~

1 a former member of the General Assembly. Should the senior resident superior court judge of
2 Wake County be disqualified or otherwise unable to serve on the three judge panel, the Chief
3 Justice shall appoint another resident superior court judge of Wake County as the presiding judge
4 of the three judge panel. Should any other member of the three judge panel be disqualified or
5 otherwise unable to serve on the three judge panel, the Chief Justice shall appoint as a
6 replacement another resident superior court judge from the same group of judicial divisions as
7 the resident superior court judge being replaced.

8 (b1) Any facial challenge to the validity of an act of the General Assembly filed in the
9 Superior Court of Wake County, other than a challenge to plans apportioning or redistricting
10 State legislative or congressional districts that shall be heard pursuant to subsection (b) of this
11 section, or any claim transferred to the Superior Court of Wake County pursuant to subsection
12 (a1) of this section, shall be assigned by the senior resident Superior Court Judge of Wake County
13 to a three judge panel established pursuant to subsection (b2) of this section.

14 (b2) For each challenge to the validity of statutes and acts subject to subsection (a1)
15 referenced in subsection (a) of this section, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint
16 three resident superior court judges to a three-judge panel of the Superior Court of Wake County
17 to hear the challenge. The Chief Justice shall appoint a presiding judge of each three-judge panel.
18 To ensure that members of each three judge panel are drawn from different regions of the State,
19 the Chief Justice shall appoint to each three judge panel one resident superior court judge from
20 the First or Second Judicial Division, one resident superior court judge from the Third or Fourth
21 Judicial Division, and one resident superior court judge from the Fifth Judicial Division. Should
22 any member of a three-judge panel be disqualified or otherwise unable to serve on the three-judge
23 panel or be removed from the panel at the discretion of the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice shall
24 appoint as a replacement another resident superior court judge from the same group of judicial
25 divisions as the resident superior court judge being replaced. No member of the panel on
26 an action challenging the validity of any act of the General Assembly that apportions or redistricts
27 State legislative or congressional districts may be a former member of the General Assembly.

28 (c) No order or judgment shall be entered affecting the validity of any act of the General
29 Assembly that apportions or redistricts State legislative or congressional districts, or finds that
30 an act of the General Assembly is facially invalid on the basis that the act violates the North
31 Carolina Constitution or federal law, except by a three-judge panel of the Superior Court of Wake
32 County organized as provided by subsection (b) or subsection (b2) of this section. In the event
33 of disagreement among the three resident superior court judges comprising a three-judge panel,
34 then the opinion of the majority shall prevail.

35 (d) This section applies only to civil proceedings. Nothing in this section shall be deemed
36 to apply to criminal proceedings, to proceedings under Chapter 15A of the General Statutes, to
37 proceedings making a collateral attack on any judgment entered in a criminal proceeding, or to
38 civil proceedings filed by a taxpayer pursuant to G.S. 105-241.17.

39 (e) For the purposes of this section, the position of superior court judge shall include
40 regular, special, and emergency superior court judges."

41 **SECTION 16.21.(b)** G.S. 1A-1, Rule 42 of the North Carolina Rules of Civil
42 Procedure reads as rewritten:

43 **"Rule 42. Consolidation; separate trials.**

44 (a) Consolidation. – Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section, when actions
45 involving a common question of law or fact are pending in one division of the court, the judge
46 may order a joint hearing or trial of any or all the matters in issue in the actions; ~~he the judge~~ may
47 order all the actions consolidated; and ~~he the judge~~ may make such orders concerning
48 proceedings therein as may tend to avoid unnecessary costs or delay. When actions involving a
49 common question of law or fact are pending in both the superior and the district court of the same
50 county, a judge of the superior court in which the action is pending may order all the actions

1 consolidated, and ~~he~~ the judge may make such orders concerning proceedings therein as may
 2 tend to avoid unnecessary costs or delay.

3 (b) Separate trials. –

4 ...

5 (4) Pursuant to G.S. 1-267.1, any facial challenge to the validity of an act of the
 6 General Assembly, other than a challenge to plans apportioning or
 7 redistricting State legislative or congressional districts, shall be heard by a
 8 three-judge panel in the Superior Court of Wake County if a claimant raises
 9 such a challenge in the claimant's complaint or amended complaint in any
 10 court in this State, or if such a challenge is raised by the defendant in the
 11 defendant's answer, responsive pleading, or within 30 days of filing the
 12 defendant's answer or responsive pleading. In that event, the court shall, on its
 13 own ~~motion~~, motion or the motion of a party, transfer that portion of the action
 14 challenging the validity of the act of the General Assembly to the Superior
 15 Court of Wake County for resolution by a three judge panel if, after all other
 16 matters in the action have been resolved, a determination as to the facial
 17 validity of an act of the General Assembly must be made in order to
 18 completely resolve any matters in the case. The court in which the action
 19 originated shall maintain jurisdiction over all matters other than the challenge
 20 to the act's facial validity. For a motion filed under Rule 11 or Rule 12(b)(1)
 21 through (7), the original court shall rule on the motion, however, it may
 22 decline to rule on a motion that is based solely upon Rule 12(b)(6). If the
 23 original court declines to rule on a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the motion shall be
 24 decided by the three-judge panel. The original court shall stay all matters that
 25 are contingent upon the outcome of the challenge to the act's facial validity
 26 pending a ruling on that challenge and until all appeal rights are exhausted.
 27 Once the three-judge panel has ruled and all appeal rights have been
 28 exhausted, the matter shall be transferred or remanded to the three-judge panel
 29 or the trial court in which the action originated for resolution of any
 30 outstanding matters, as appropriate."

31 **SECTION 16.21.(c)** G.S. 7A-27(b) reads as rewritten:

32 "(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, appeal lies of right directly to the
 33 Court of Appeals in any of the following cases:

34 ...

35 (3) From any interlocutory order or judgment of a superior court or district court
 36 in a civil action or proceeding that does any of the following:

37 ...

38 g. Denies, upon the court's own motion or the motion of a party, the
 39 transfer of an action or proceeding pursuant to Rule 42(b)(4) of the
 40 North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure.

41"

42 **SECTION 16.21.(d)** G.S. 7A-30 reads as rewritten:

43 **"§ 7A-30. Appeals of right from certain decisions of the Court of Appeals.**

44 Except as provided in G.S. 7A-28, an appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court from any
 45 decision of the Court of Appeals rendered in a case:

46 (1) Which directly involves a substantial question arising under the Constitution
 47 of the United States or of this ~~State~~, or State.

48 (2) ~~In which there is a dissent when the Court of Appeals is sitting in a panel of~~
 49 ~~three judges. An appeal of right pursuant to this subdivision is not effective~~
 50 ~~until after the Court of Appeals sitting en banc has rendered a decision in the~~
 51 ~~case, if the Court of Appeals hears the case en banc, or until after the time for~~

1 filing a motion for rehearing of the cause by the Court of Appeals has expired
2 or the Court of Appeals has denied the motion for rehearing."

3 **SECTION 16.21.(e)** Subsection (d) of this section is effective when it becomes law
4 and applies to appellate cases filed with the Court of Appeals on or after that date. The remainder
5 of this section is effective when it becomes law and applies to civil actions pending or filed on
6 or after that date.

8 **INCLUDE DOLLAR AMOUNTS ON COURT COST WAIVER REPORT**

9 **SECTION 16.22.(a)** G.S. 7A-350 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 7A-350. Annual report on criminal court cost waivers.**

11 The Administrative Office of the Courts shall maintain records of all cases in which a judge
12 makes a finding of just cause to grant a waiver of criminal court costs under G.S. 7A-304(a) and
13 shall report on those ~~waivers-waivers~~, including an exact or best estimate of the dollar amount of
14 each waiver, to the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees
15 on Justice and Public Safety and the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
16 Justice and Public Safety by February 1 of each year. The report shall aggregate the waivers by
17 the district in which the waiver or waivers were granted and by the name of each judge granting
18 a waiver or waivers."

19 **SECTION 16.22.(b)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2024, and applies to
20 waivers granted on or after that date.

22 **COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING** 23 **SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

24 **SECTION 16.23.(a)** Article 29 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by
25 adding a new section to read:

26 **"§ 7A-354.1. Human Trafficking Commission Competitive Grant Program.**

27 (a) Established. – The Human Trafficking Commission shall develop and implement the
28 Human Trafficking Commission Competitive Grant Program.

29 (b) Criteria. – The following criteria shall apply to the Grant Program:

30 (1) Grant applicants shall satisfy all of the following:

31 a. Be a nonprofit corporation.

32 b. Provide direct services to victims of human trafficking, which may
33 include case management, client safety, client well-being, and other
34 services, including health, transportation, housing, education, and
35 employment assistance.

36 c. Be ineligible for a grant under the provisions of G.S. 50B-9 and
37 G.S. 143B-394.21.

38 d. Submit a detailed proposal of its human trafficking service program
39 which shall, at a minimum, include each of the following:

40 1. A description of the geographic area the organization serves
41 and the needs of victims of human trafficking in that area.

42 2. A plan to address the needs of victims, including the goals and
43 objectives of each proposed initiative.

44 3. The time line for implementing each proposed initiative to
45 achieve the desired objective and the names of any partners
46 with whom the organization will be working and the role of
47 those partners in the proposed initiative.

48 4. A list of the specific services each proposed initiative will
49 deliver, which may include case management, client safety,
50 client well-being, and other services, including health,

- 1 transportation, housing, education, and employment
2 assistance.
- 3 5. The anticipated planning and administrative costs for each
4 proposed initiative, sorted by type, including staffing, fixed
5 costs, contracts, and information technology.
- 6 6. A description of the organization's capacity to implement its
7 plan to address the needs of victims, including the
8 organization's staffing level, systems, partnerships, existing
9 funding, and existing programs.
- 10 7. Any additional information deemed appropriate by the
11 Commission.
- 12 (2) The Commission shall coordinate outreach efforts with the North Carolina
13 Council for Women and Youth Involvement (Council), State agencies, and
14 local partners to make information regarding the grant funds available to
15 eligible organizations within two weeks after this section becomes law.
- 16 (3) The Commission shall, upon receipt of all applications by the deadlines set by
17 the Commission, expeditiously award and disburse grant funds.
- 18 (4) Grant recipients shall comply with all reporting requirements in
19 G.S. 143C-6-23 and the contract between the recipient and the Commission.
- 20 (c) Grant Maximum. – The Commission shall set the maximum amount of each grant
21 based upon the availability of funds, provided that no grantee shall receive more than fifty
22 thousand dollars (\$50,000) in grant funds over any period of two calendar years.
- 23 (d) Grantee Reporting. – No later than June 30 of each year following a year in which a
24 grantee received funds pursuant to the Grant Program created under this section, each grantee
25 shall submit a report to the Commission that includes all of the following:
- 26 (1) Progress on the development and implementation of each of its program
27 initiatives.
- 28 (2) Progress on meeting goals and objectives for each program initiative.
- 29 (3) The number of human trafficking victims assisted through each program
30 initiative.
- 31 (4) A description and explanation of any delays in implementation of program
32 initiatives.
- 33 (5) A description and explanation of any changes in the proposal submitted
34 pursuant to sub-subdivision d. of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
35 section.
- 36 (6) Planning and administrative costs to date for each program initiative, sorted
37 by type, including staffing, fixed costs, contracts, and information technology.
- 38 (7) Any additional information required by the Commission.
- 39 The Commission shall post on its website the reports required by this subsection.
- 40 (e) Commission Reporting. – No later than April 1 of each year, the Commission shall
41 submit a report on the grants awarded in the previous year to the Senate Appropriations
42 Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the House of Representatives Appropriations
43 Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice
44 and Public Safety, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall contain all of the following:
- 45 (1) The number of applications received.
- 46 (2) The number of grants awarded.
- 47 (3) The names and locations of the grant recipients.
- 48 (4) The amount of each grant awarded.
- 49 (5) A description of the human trafficking initiatives funded by each grant
50 awarded under this section, including the geographic area in which services
51 were provided.

(6) The total number of victims of human trafficking that were served, to date, by each recipient receiving a grant under this section."

SECTION 16.23.(b) The funds appropriated in this act to the Administrative Office of the Courts, Human Trafficking Commission (Commission), to create a human trafficking competitive grant program shall be used to develop and implement the Human Trafficking Commission Competitive Grant Program created in subsection (a) of this section.

PROVIDE FOR WORK OR WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES AS AN ALTERNATIVE REMEDY TO INCARCERATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DETERMINED TO BE DELINQUENT ON CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

SECTION 16.24.(a) G.S. 50-13.4(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) Remedies for enforcement of support of minor children shall be available as follows:

...

(9) An order for the periodic payments of child support or a child support judgment that provides for periodic payments is enforceable by proceedings for civil contempt, and disobedience may be punished by proceedings for criminal contempt, as provided in Chapter 5A of the General Statutes.

Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 1-294, an order for the payment of child support which has been appealed to the appellate division is enforceable in the trial court by proceedings for civil contempt during the pendency of the appeal. Upon motion of an aggrieved party, the court of the appellate division in which the appeal is pending may stay any order for civil contempt entered for child support until the appeal is decided, if justice requires.

As a special condition of a contempt order, the court may direct the person into job search or duly specific education training. If the court selects this option, the court shall review the person's progress in 30-day intervals, at a minimum, unless the person is enrolled and actively participating in work-specific training. The person's enrollment in work-specific training shall not exceed six months, and the person shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

a. Pay a minimum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) monthly of child support.

b. Notify the court upon completion from work-specific training.

c. Notify the court within 14 days of failing to satisfy the attendance requirements of work-specific training.

...."

SECTION 16.24.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to orders entered on or after that date.

ALLOW FOR AN EXPEDITED LICENSURE PROCESS FOR ATTORNEYS WHO ARE MILITARY-TRAINED APPLICANTS OR MILITARY SPOUSES

SECTION 16.25.(a) G.S. 93B-15.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 93B-15.1. **Licensure for individuals with military training and experience; proficiency examination; licensure by endorsement for military spouses; temporary license.**

...

(e) ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to~~ If a military spouse applies under this section to be licensed in this State for the practice of law as regulated under Chapter 84 of the General Statutes, then the military spouse shall comply with G.S. 84-4.3 and other applicable provisions of Chapter 84 of the General Statutes.

...."

SECTION 16.25.(b) Chapter 84 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 84-4.3. Limited practice for military spouse expedited licensure.

(a) If a military-trained applicant or military spouse is issued a license to practice law under G.S. 93B-15.1, the licensee must be actively supervised by an attorney with a current license to practice law in good standing in this State for a period of three years from the date of issuance. The supervising attorney must be employed at the same firm as the military-trained applicant or military spouse. The military-trained applicant or military spouse must submit the name and information of the supervising attorney to the North Carolina State Bar. If the supervising attorney no longer is able to supervise the military-trained applicant or military spouse during the three-year period, the military-trained applicant or military spouse shall identify a new supervising attorney to the North Carolina State Bar as soon as practicable.

(b) Upon the completion of the three-year period, the military-trained applicant or military spouse shall be granted a license to practice law without the requirement of supervision as long as the military-trained applicant or military spouse is in good standing with the North Carolina State Bar.

(c) Any military-trained applicant or military spouse who applies for a license in accordance with this section is not required to pay any application of licensure fee under this Chapter. Upon completion of the three-year period, the military-trained applicant or military spouse shall pay the applicable fees as a licensed attorney under this Chapter.

(d) The military-trained applicant or military spouse applying for a license to practice law under this section shall not be required to have been actively practicing law as their principal means of livelihood in a reciprocal jurisdiction prior to the date of application but must have a license to practice law in good standing in a reciprocal jurisdiction."

SECTION 16.25.(c) The North Carolina State Bar shall adopt temporary rules to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 16.25.(d) This section becomes effective October 1, 2023, and applies to applications for licensure on or after that date.

NUMERICALLY REALIGN SUPERIOR, DISTRICT COURT, AND PUBLIC DEFENDER DISTRICTS WITH PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICTS

SECTION 16.26.(a) G.S. 7A-41 reads as rewritten:

"§ 7A-41. Superior court divisions and districts; judges.

(a) The counties of the State are organized into judicial divisions and superior court districts, and each superior court district has the counties, and the number of regular resident superior court judges set forth in the following table, and for districts of less than a whole county, as set out in subsection (b) of this section:

Judicial Division	Superior Court District	Counties	No. of Resident Judges
...			
First	3A3	Pitt	2
Second	3B4	Carteret, Craven, Pamlico	3
Second	45	Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Sampson	2
Second	5A6A	(part of New Hanover, Pender	1
		see subsection (b))	5
<u>Second</u>	<u>5B6B</u>	(part of New Hanover, see subsection (b))	1
<u>Second</u>	<u>5C6C</u>	(part of New Hanover,	1

1			see subsection (b))	
2	First	6A <u>7A</u>	Halifax	1
3	First	6B <u>7B</u>	Bertie, Hertford, Northampton	1
4			Nash	1
5	First	7A <u>8A</u>	(part of Wilson, part of Edgecombe, see subsection (b))	1
6	First	7B <u>8B</u>	(part of Wilson, part of Edgecombe, see subsection (b))	1
7			(part of Wilson, part of Edgecombe, see subsection (b))	1
8	First	7C <u>8C</u>	(part of Wilson, part of Edgecombe, see subsection (b))	1
9			Lenoir and Greene	1
10	Second	8A <u>9A</u>	Wayne	1
11	Second	8B <u>9B</u>	Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, Warren	1
12	First	9 <u>11</u>		2
13	...			
14	Third	11A <u>12</u>	Harnett, Lee	1
15	Third	11B <u>13</u>	Johnston	2
16	Third	12A <u>14A</u>	(part of Cumberland, see subsection (b))	1
17	Third	12B <u>14B</u>	(part of Cumberland, see subsection (b))	1
18	Third	12C <u>14C</u>	(part of Cumberland, see subsection (b))	2
19	Second	13A <u>15A</u>	Bladen, Columbus	1
20	Second	13B <u>15B</u>	Brunswick	1
21	First	14A <u>16A</u>	(part of Durham, see subsection (b))	1
22	First	14B <u>16B</u>	(part of Durham, see subsection (b))	3
23	Third	15A <u>17</u>	Alamance	2
24	Fourth	15B <u>18</u>	Orange, Chatham	2
25	Third	16A <u>21</u>	Anson, Richmond, Scotland	2
26	Second	16B <u>20</u>	Robeson	2
27	Fourth	17A <u>22</u>	Caswell, Rockingham	2
28	Fourth	17B <u>23</u>	Stokes, Surry	1
29	Fourth	18A <u>24A</u>	(part of Guilford, see subsection (b))	1
30	Fourth	18B <u>24B</u>	(part of Guilford, see subsection (b))	1
31	Fourth	18C <u>24C</u>	(part of Guilford, see subsection (b))	1
32	Fourth	18D <u>24D</u>	(part of Guilford, see subsection (b))	1
33	Fourth	18E <u>24E</u>	(part of Guilford, see subsection (b))	1
34	Fourth	19A <u>25</u>	Cabarrus	1
35	Third	19B <u>37</u>	Randolph	2
36	Fourth	19C <u>27</u>	Rowan	1

1	Third	19D <u>29</u>	Hoke, Moore	2
2	Third	20A <u>28</u>	Montgomery, Stanly	2
3	Third	20B <u>30</u>	Union	2
4	Fourth	21A <u>31A</u>	(part of Forsyth,	2
5			see subsection (b))	
6	Fourth	21B <u>31B</u>	(part of Forsyth,	1
7			see subsection (b))	
8	Fourth	21C <u>31C</u>	(part of Forsyth,	1
9			see subsection (b))	
10	Fourth	21D <u>31D</u>	(part of Forsyth,	1
11			see subsection (b))	
12	Fourth	22A <u>32</u>	Alexander, Iredell	2
13	Fourth	22B <u>33</u>	Davidson, Davie	2
14	Fourth	23 <u>34</u>	Alleghany, Ashe,	1
15			Wilkes, Yadkin	
16	Fifth	24 <u>35</u>	Avery, Madison,	2
17			Mitchell,	
18			Watauga, Yancey	
19	Fifth	25A <u>36</u>	Burke, Caldwell	2
20	Fifth	25B <u>19</u>	Catawba	2
21	...			
22	<u>Fifth</u>	26D	(part of Mecklenburg,	1
23			see subsection (b))	
24	<u>Fifth</u>	26E	(part of Mecklenburg,	1
25			see subsection (b))	
26	<u>Fifth</u>	26F	(part of Mecklenburg,	1
27			see subsection (b))	
28	<u>Fifth</u>	26G	(part of Mecklenburg,	1
29			see subsection (b))	
30	<u>Fifth</u>	26H	(part of Mecklenburg,	1
31			see subsection (b))	
32	Fifth	27A <u>38</u>	Gaston	2
33	Fifth	27B <u>39</u>	Cleveland, Lincoln	2
34	Fifth	28 <u>40</u>	Buncombe	2
35	Fifth	29A <u>41</u>	McDowell,	1
36			Rutherford	
37	Fifth	29B <u>42</u>	Henderson, Polk,	1
38			Transylvania	
39	Fifth	30A <u>43A</u>	Cherokee, Clay,	1
40			Graham, Macon,	
41			Swain	
42	Fifth	30B <u>43B</u>	Haywood, Jackson	1.
43	(b)	For superior court districts of less than a whole county, or with part of one county		
44		with part of another, the composition of the district and the number of judges is as follows:		
45	(1)	District 5A : <u>6A</u> : New Hanover County: VTD CF01, VTD CF02, VTD CF03,		
46		VTD H01, VTD W25, VTD W27; Pender County. It has one judge.		
47	(2)	District 5B : <u>6B</u> : New Hanover County: VTD H02, VTD H03, VTD H04, VTD		
48		H05, VTD H06, VTD H07, VTD H08, VTD H09, VTD M02, VTD M05, ...		
49	(3)	District 5C : <u>6C</u> : New Hanover County: VTD FP01, VTD FP02, VTD FP03,		
50		...		

- 1 (4) District ~~7B~~:8B: Edgecombe County: VTD: 1101: Block(s) 0650213001035;
- 2 ...
- 3 (5) District ~~7C~~:8C: Edgecombe County: VTD: 0101, VTD: 0102, VTD: 0103, ...
- 4 (12) District ~~12A~~:14A: Cumberland County: VTD: AH49, VTD: CC18: Block(s)
- 5 ...
- 6 (13) District ~~12B~~:14B: Cumberland County: VTD: CC01, VTD: CC03, VTD: ...
- 7 (14) District ~~12C~~:14C: Cumberland County: VTD: AL51, VTD: CC04, VTD: ...
- 8 (15) District ~~14A~~:16A: Durham County: VTD: 09, VTD: 12, VTD: 13, VTD: 14,
- 9 ...
- 10 (16) District ~~14B~~:16B: Durham County: VTD: 01, VTD: 02, VTD: 03, VTD: 04,
- 11 ...
- 12 (17) District ~~18A~~:24A: Guilford County: VTD: FEN1, VTD: FEN2, VTD: G04,
- 13 ...
- 14 (18) District ~~18B~~:24B: Guilford County: VTD: H01, VTD: H02, VTD: H03, VTD:
- 15 ...
- 16 (19) District ~~18C~~:24C: Guilford County: VTD: CG1, VTD: CG2, VTD: CG3A,
- 17 ...
- 18 (20) District ~~18D~~:24D: Guilford County: VTD: G01, VTD: G11, VTD: G12,
- 19 ...
- 20 (21) District ~~18E~~:24E: Guilford County: VTD: G02, VTD: G03, VTD: G07, VTD:
- 21 ...
- 22 (22) District ~~21A~~:31A: Forsyth County: VTD: 051, VTD: 052, VTD: 053, VTD:
- 23 ...
- 24 (23) District ~~21B~~:31B: Forsyth County: VTD: 042, VTD: 043, VTD: 501, VTD:
- 25 ...
- 26 (24) District ~~21C~~:31C: Forsyth County: VTD: 011, VTD: 012, VTD: 013, VTD:
- 27 ...
- 28 (25) District ~~21D~~:31D: Forsyth County: VTD: 081, VTD: 082, VTD: 083, VTD:
- 29 ...

30 (b1) The qualified voters of ~~District 4~~District 5 shall elect all judges established for
 31 ~~District 4~~District 5 in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Onslow
 32 County may be candidates for one of the judgeships and only persons who reside in Duplin,
 33 Jones, or Sampson County may be candidates for the remaining judgeship.
 34"

35 **SECTION 16.26.(b)** G.S. 7A-133 reads as rewritten:

36 "**§ 7A-133. Numbers of judges by districts; numbers of magistrates and additional seats of**
 37 **court, by counties.**

38 (a) Each district court district shall have the numbers of judges as set forth in the
 39 following table:

<u>District</u>	<u>Judges</u>	<u>County</u>
40 ...		
41 3A <u>3</u>	6	Pitt
42 3B <u>4</u>	6	Craven
43		Pamlico
44		Carteret
45 4 <u>5</u>	9	Sampson
46		Duplin
47		Jones
48		Onslow
49 5 <u>6</u>	9	New Hanover
50		Pender
51		

1	<u>67</u>	4	Northampton
2			Bertie
3			Hertford
4			Halifax
5	<u>78</u>	7	Nash
6			Edgecombe
7			Wilson
8	<u>89</u>	6	Wayne
9			Greene
10			Lenoir
11	<u>911A</u>	5	Granville
12			(part of Vance
13			see subsection
14			(b))
15			Franklin
16			Person
17	<u>9B11B</u>	2	Warren
18			(part of Vance
19			see subsection (b))
20	...		
21	<u>112</u>	11	Harnett
22			Johnston
23			Lee
24	<u>1214</u>	10	Cumberland
25	<u>1315</u>	7	Bladen
26			Brunswick
27			Columbus
28	<u>1416</u>	7	Durham
29	<u>15A17</u>	4	Alamance
30	<u>15B18</u>	5	Orange
31			Chatham
32	<u>16A21</u>	4	Scotland
33			Anson
34			Richmond
35	<u>16B20</u>	6	Robeson
36	<u>17A22</u>	4	Caswell
37			Rockingham
38	<u>17B23</u>	4	Stokes
39			Surry
40	<u>1824</u>	14	Guilford
41	<u>19A25</u>	6	Cabarrus
42	<u>19B37</u>	5	Randolph
43	<u>19C27</u>	5	Rowan
44	<u>19D29</u>	5	Hoke, Moore
45	<u>20A28</u>	3	Montgomery, Stanly
46	<u>20B30A</u>	5	Union
47	<u>2131</u>	11	Forsyth
48	<u>22A32</u>	6	Alexander
49			Iredell
50	<u>22B33</u>	6	Davidson
51			Davie

1	<u>2334</u>	4	Alleghany
2			Ashe
3			Wilkes
4			Yadkin
5	<u>2435</u>	4	Avery
6			Madison
7			Mitchell
8			Watauga
9			Yancey
10	<u>2536</u>	10	Burke
11			Caldwell
12			Catawba
13	...		
14	<u>27A38</u>	7	Gaston
15	<u>27B39</u>	6	Cleveland
16			Lincoln
17	<u>2840</u>	7	Buncombe
18	<u>29A41</u>	4	McDowell
19			Rutherford
20	<u>29B42</u>	5	Henderson
21			Polk
22			Transylvania
23	<u>3043</u>	6	Cherokee
24			Clay
25			Graham
26			Haywood
27			Jackson
28			Macon
29			Swain.

(b) For district court districts of less than a whole county, or with part or all of one county with part of another, the composition of the district is as follows:

- (1) District Court ~~District 9~~ District 11A consists of Person, Franklin and Granville Counties and the remainder of Vance County not in District Court ~~District 9B~~ District 11B.
- (2) District Court ~~District 9B~~ District 11B consists of Warren County and VTD EH1, VTD MIDD, VTD NH1, VTD NH2, VTD TWNS, VTD WMSB of Vance County.
- (3) District Court ~~District 20C~~ District 30B consists of the remainder of Union County not in District Court ~~District 20B~~ District 30A.
- (4) District Court ~~District 20B~~ District 30A consists of Precinct 01: Tract 204.01:

...

The names and boundaries of voting tabulation districts specified for Mecklenburg County, Wake County, and Vance County in this section are as shown on the 2010 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles. Precinct boundaries for Union County are those shown on the Legislative Services Office's redistricting computer database on January 1, 2005; and for other counties are those reported by the United States Bureau of the Census under Public Law 94-171 for the 1990 Census in the IVTD Version of the TIGER files.

(b1) The qualified voters of District Court ~~District 11~~ District 12 shall elect all eight judges established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Johnston County may be candidates for five of the judgeships, only persons who reside in Harnett

1 County may be candidates for two of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Lee County
2 may be candidates for the remaining judgeship.

3 (b2) The qualified voters of District Court ~~District 13~~ District 15 shall elect all six judges
4 established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Bladen
5 County may be candidates for one of those judgeships, only persons who reside in Columbus
6 County may be candidates for two of those judgeships, and only persons who reside in Brunswick
7 County may be candidates for three of those judgeships. These district court judgeships shall be
8 numbered and assigned for residency purposes as follows:

9 ...

10 (b3) The qualified voters of District Court ~~District 22A~~ District 32 shall elect all five
11 judges established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside
12 in Alexander County may be candidates for two of the judgeships, and only persons who reside
13 in Iredell County may be candidates for three of the judgeships.

14 (b4) The qualified voters of District Court ~~District 22B~~ District 33 shall elect all six judges
15 established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Davie
16 County may be candidates for two of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Davidson
17 County may be candidates for four of the judgeships.

18 (b5) The qualified voters of ~~District 16A~~ District 21 shall elect all judges established for
19 ~~District 16A~~ District 21 in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Anson
20 County may be candidates for one of the judgeships, only persons who reside in Scotland County
21 may be candidates for one of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Richmond County
22 may be candidates for the remaining judgeships. In order to implement this section the following
23 shall apply in order to transition from at large seats to residency requirements:

24 ...

25 (b6) The qualified voters of ~~District 20A~~ District 28 shall elect all judges established for
26 ~~District 20A~~ District 28 in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in
27 Montgomery County may be candidates for one of the judgeships, and only persons who reside
28 in Montgomery or Stanly County may be candidates for the remaining judgeships.

29 (b7) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the qualified voters of ~~District 25~~ District
30 36 shall elect all judges established for ~~District 25~~ District 36 in subsection (a) of this section,
31 but only persons who reside in Catawba County may be candidates for five of the judgeships,
32 and only persons who reside in Burke or Caldwell County may be candidates for the remaining
33 judgeships. In order to implement this section the following shall apply in order to transition from
34 at large seats to residency requirements:

35 ...

36 (2) Transition of seats; vacancies. – Upon each of the first three district court
37 judgeship vacancies occurring in District Court ~~District 25~~ District 36 after
38 July 1, 2018, due to death, resignation, removal, or retirement of a person who
39 is a resident of Catawba County holding a judgeship on July 1, 2018, that
40 vacancy shall be filled according to law for the remainder of the unfilled term.
41 At the next general election held for that district court judgeship, only persons
42 who reside in Burke or Caldwell County may be candidates for that district
43 court judgeship. Any primary associated with that general election for that
44 district court judgeship after the completion of the term shall also be held
45 accordingly, in accordance with this subsection.

46 (3) Notification to State Board. – Upon each of the first three district court
47 judgeship vacancies occurring after July 1, 2018, in District Court ~~District 25~~
48 District 36 due to the death, resignation, removal, or retirement of a person
49 who is a resident of Catawba County holding a judgeship on July 1, 2018, the
50 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide written
51 notice of the vacancy to the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement.

During the filing period for that district court judgeship at the next general election held for that district court judgeship, the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement shall ensure that only persons who reside in Burke or Caldwell County may file as candidates for that district court judgeship in accordance [with] this subsection.

...."

SECTION 16.26.(c) G.S. 7A-60(a1) reads as rewritten:

"(a1) The counties of the State are organized into prosecutorial districts, and each district has the counties and the number of full-time assistant district attorneys set forth in the following table:

Prosecutorial District	Counties	No. of Full-Time Asst. District Attorneys
19	Catawba	10
44	Catawba	10"

SECTION 16.26.(d) Section 3(d) of S.L. 2018-121, as amended by Section 13(a) of S.L. 2021-91, reads as rewritten:

SECTION 3.(d) The office and term of the district attorney for Prosecutorial District 36 formerly consisting of Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties is terminated upon the expiration of the term expiring December 31, 2026. Effective January 1, 2027, District 36 formerly consisting of Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties is reassigned as provided in this section. All open investigations and pending cases for Prosecutorial District 36 formerly consisting of Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties shall be transferred to either District 36 or ~~District 44, District 19~~, as enacted by this section. Burke and Caldwell Counties remain in District 36, as enacted by this section, and the total number of ADAs in that district is ~~10-11~~. Catawba County is added to ~~District 44, District 19~~, and the total number of ADAs in that district is 10."

SECTION 16.26.(e) G.S. 7A-498.7(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The following counties of the State are organized into the defender districts listed below, and in each of those defender districts an office of public defender is established:

Defender District	Counties
3A3	Pitt
3B4	Craven, Pamlico, Carteret
56	New Hanover, Pender
1214	Cumberland
1416	Durham
15B18	Orange, Chatham
16A21	Scotland, Hoke
16B20	Robeson
1824	Guilford
2131	Forsyth
27A38	Gaston
27B39	Cleveland, Lincoln
2840	Buncombe
29A41	McDowell, Rutherford

1 ~~29B42~~

Henderson, Polk, Transylvania

2
3 After notice to, and consultation with, the affected district bar, senior resident superior court
4 judge, and chief district court judge, the Commission on Indigent Defense Services may
5 recommend to the General Assembly that a district or regional public defender office be
6 established. A legislative act is required in order to establish a new office or to abolish an existing
7 office."

8 **SECTION 16.26.(f)** The Revisor of Statutes is authorized to reorder the Superior
9 Court Districts in G.S. 7A-41, the District Court Districts in G.S. 7A-133, and the Prosecutorial
10 Districts in G.S. 7A-60 to ensure that all districts are listed in alphabetical and numerical order.

11 **SECTION 16.26.(g)** Subsections (a), (b), and (e) of this section become effective
12 October 1, 2023. Subsections (c) and (d) of this section become effective January 1, 2027. Except
13 as otherwise provided, this section is effective when it becomes law.
14

15 **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS USE OF COURT INFORMATION**
16 **TECHNOLOGY FUND**

17 **SECTION 16.27.** The Administrative Office of the Courts may use up to the sum of
18 three million eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$3,850,000) of receipts in the Court
19 Information Technology Fund (Budget Code 22006, Fund Code 2006) in each fiscal year of the
20 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to create up to 34 time-limited positions to support the
21 implementation of court technology.
22

23 **EXPAND AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL SUPPLEMENTS TO CERTAIN**
24 **COURT POSITIONS**

25 **SECTION 16.28.(a)** G.S. 7A-300.1 reads as rewritten:

26 "**§ 7A-300.1. Local supplementation of salaries for certain officers and employees.**

27 ...

28 (b) ~~This section applies only to (i) cities with a population of 300,000 or more according~~
29 ~~to the most recent estimate of the Office of State Budget and Management and (ii) counties with~~
30 ~~a population of 300,000 or over according to the most recent estimate of the Office of State~~
31 ~~Budget and Management."~~

32 **SECTION 16.28.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
33

34 **EXTEND REVERSION DATE OF CERTAIN COURT-RELATED DIRECTED**
35 **GRANTS**

36 **SECTION 16.29.(a)** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the funds
37 appropriated in S.L. 2021-180 to be allocated as directed grants to Cumberland County, Forsyth
38 County, Harnett County, Haywood County, Onslow County, Pitt County, Robeson County, and
39 Wayne County to be used to support innovative court pilot programs shall not revert until June
40 30, 2025.

41 **SECTION 16.29.(b)** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the funds
42 appropriated in S.L. 2021-180 to be allocated as a directed grant to Cumberland County to be
43 used to support a Human Trafficking Court pilot program shall not revert until June 30, 2025.
44

45 **MODIFY REIMBURSEMENT RULES FOR APPELLATE JUDGES AND JUSTICES**

46 **SECTION 16.30.(a)** G.S. 7A-10(b1) reads as rewritten:

47 "(b1) In addition to the reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses authorized by
48 subsection (b) of this section, and notwithstanding G.S. 138-6, each justice whose permanent
49 residence is at least 50 miles from the City of Raleigh shall also be reimbursed for the mileage
50 the justice travels each trip to the City of Raleigh from the justice's home for business of the
51 court. The reimbursement authorized by this subsection shall be calculated for each justice by

1 multiplying the actual round-trip mileage from that justice's home to the City of Raleigh by a
 2 rate-per-mile established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, but not to
 3 exceed the business standard mileage rate set by the Internal Revenue Service. The duty station
 4 for any justice of the Supreme Court whose permanent residence is at least 30 miles from the
 5 City of Raleigh and outside of Wake County at the time the justice takes office as a justice of the
 6 Supreme Court shall be the county seat of the county in which the justice's permanent residence
 7 is located at the time of election or appointment to the office of justice of the Supreme Court for
 8 the purpose of determining eligibility for mileage reimbursement. If a justice who has previously
 9 qualified for mileage reimbursement under this subsection relocates the justice's permanent
 10 residence ~~outside of to a county non-contiguous to~~ the county of residence used in determining
 11 that justice's eligibility for reimbursement under this subsection, that justice shall not be eligible
 12 for reimbursement for mileage and the justice's duty station shall be Wake County."

13 **SECTION 16.30.(b)** G.S. 7A-18(a1) reads as rewritten:

14 "(a1) In addition to the reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses authorized by
 15 subsection (a) of this section, and notwithstanding G.S. 138-6, each judge whose permanent
 16 residence is at least 50 miles from the City of Raleigh shall also be reimbursed for the mileage
 17 the judge travels each trip to the City of Raleigh from the judge's home for business of the court.
 18 The reimbursement authorized by this subsection shall be calculated for each judge by
 19 multiplying the actual round-trip mileage from that judge's home to the City of Raleigh by a
 20 rate-per-mile established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, but not to
 21 exceed the business standard mileage rate set by the Internal Revenue Service. The duty station
 22 for any judge of the Court of Appeals whose permanent residence is at least 30 miles from the
 23 City of Raleigh and outside of Wake County at the time the judge takes office as a judge of the
 24 Court of Appeals shall be the county seat of the county in which that judge's permanent residence
 25 is located at the time of election or appointment to the office of judge of the Court of Appeals for
 26 the purpose of determining eligibility for mileage reimbursement. If a judge who has previously
 27 qualified for mileage reimbursement under this subsection relocates the judge's permanent
 28 residence ~~outside of to a county non-contiguous to~~ the county of residence used in determining
 29 that judge's eligibility under this subsection, that judge shall not be eligible for reimbursement
 30 for mileage and the judge's duty station shall be Wake County."

31 **SECTION 16.30.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
 32 travel occurring on or after that date.
 33

34 EXPAND ENTITLEMENT TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY INVESTIGATORS

35 **SECTION 16.31.** G.S. 7A-69 reads as rewritten:

36 "**§ 7A-69. Investigatorial assistants. District attorney investigators.**

37 ~~The Each~~ district attorney in prosecutorial districts 1, 3B, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15A, 15B,
 38 16A, 18, 19B, 20A, 20B, 21, 22A, 22B, 24, 25, 26, 27A, 27B, 28, 29A, 29B, and 30 is entitled
 39 to at least one investigatorial assistant, and the district attorney in prosecutorial district 10 is
 40 entitled to two investigatorial assistants, district attorney investigator to be appointed by the
 41 district attorney and to serve at ~~his~~ the district attorney's pleasure.

42 It shall be the duty of the ~~investigatorial assistant~~ district attorney investigator
 43 to investigate cases preparatory to trial and to perform such other Duties as may be assigned by the
 44 district attorney. The ~~investigatorial assistant is~~ district attorney investigators are entitled to
 45 reimbursement for ~~his~~ subsistence and travel expenses to the same extent as State employees
 46 generally."
 47

48 MODIFY DISTRICT ATTORNEY WITNESS REIMBURSEMENT

49 **SECTION 16.32.(a)** G.S. 7A-314 reads as rewritten:

50 "**§ 7A-314. Uniform fees for witnesses; experts; limit on number.**

51 ...

1 (b) A witness entitled to a fee set forth in subsections (a) or (a1) of this section, and a
 2 law-enforcement officer who qualifies as a witness, shall be entitled to receive an allowance or
 3 reimbursement for travel expenses as follows:

4 (1) A witness whose residence is outside the county of appearance but within 75
 5 miles of the place of appearance shall be entitled to receive mileage
 6 reimbursement at the rate currently authorized for State employees, for each
 7 mile necessarily traveled from his place of resident to the place of appearance
 8 and return, each day. Reimbursements to witnesses acting on behalf of the
 9 court or prosecutorial offices shall be paid in accordance with the rules
 10 established by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Reimbursements to
 11 witnesses provided under G.S. 7A-454 shall be in accordance with rules
 12 established by the Office of Indigent Defense Services.

13 (2) A witness whose residence is outside the county of appearance and more than
 14 75 miles from the place of appearance shall be entitled to receive mileage
 15 reimbursement at the rate currently authorized State employees for one
 16 round-trip from his place of residence to the place of appearance. A witness
 17 required to appear more than one day shall be entitled to receive an allowance
 18 or reimbursement for ~~actual~~ expenses incurred for lodging and meals not to
 19 exceed the maximum currently authorized for State employees, in lieu of daily
 20 mileage. ~~Reimbursements- Allowances or reimbursements~~ to witnesses acting
 21 on behalf of the court or prosecutorial offices shall be paid in accordance with
 22 the rules established by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
 23 Reimbursements and travel allowances to witnesses provided under
 24 G.S. 7A-454 shall be in accordance with rules established by the Office of
 25 Indigent Defense Services.

26 (c) A witness who resides in a state other than North Carolina and who appears for the
 27 purpose of testifying in a criminal action and proves his attendance may be compensated at the
 28 rate allowed to State officers and employees by subdivisions (1) and (2) of G.S. 138-6(a) for one
 29 round-trip from the witness's place of residence to the place of appearance, and five dollars
 30 (\$5.00) for each day that the witness is required to travel and attend as a witness, upon order of
 31 the court based upon a finding that the person was a necessary witness. If such a witness is
 32 required to appear more than one day, the witness is also entitled to an allowance or
 33 reimbursement for ~~actual~~ expenses incurred for lodging and meals, not to exceed the maximum
 34 currently authorized for State employees. Reimbursements and travel allowances to witnesses
 35 acting on behalf of the court or prosecutorial offices shall be paid in accordance with the rules
 36 established by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Reimbursements to witnesses provided
 37 under G.S. 7A-454 shall be in accordance with rules established by the Office of Indigent
 38 Defense Services.

39"

40 **SECTION 16.32.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
 41 travel occurring on or after that date.

42
 43 **PART XVII. INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES**

44
 45 **NEW PUBLIC DEFENDER DISTRICTS**

46 **SECTION 17.1.(a)** G.S. 7A-498.7(a), as amended by Section 16.26 of this act, reads
 47 as rewritten:

48 "(a) The following counties of the State are organized into the defender districts listed
 49 below, and in each of those defender districts an office of public defender is established:

50
 51 **Defender District** **Counties**

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...	
<u>5</u>	<u>Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Sampson</u>
...	
<u>13</u>	<u>Johnston</u>
...	
<u>15</u>	<u>Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus</u>
...	
<u>17</u>	<u>Alamance</u>
...	
<u>43A</u>	<u>Cherokee, Clay, Graham</u>
	<u>Macon, Swain</u>
<u>43B</u>	<u>Haywood, Jackson</u>

After notice to, and consultation with, the affected district bar, senior resident superior court judge, and chief district court judge, the Commission on Indigent Defense Services may recommend to the General Assembly that a district or regional public defender office be established. A legislative act is required in order to establish a new office or to abolish an existing office."

SECTION 17.1.(b) This section becomes effective January 1, 2024.

ALLOW THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS TO SHARE CERTAIN INFORMATION WITH THE OFFICE OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES

SECTION 17.3.(a) G.S. 132-1.4(k) reads as rewritten:

"(k) The following court records are public records and may be withheld only when sealed by court order: ~~arrest~~

- (1) Arrest and search warrants that have been returned by law enforcement agencies, ~~agencies.~~
- (2) indictments, Indictments.
- (3) eriminal summons, Criminal summonses.
- (4) and nontestimonial Nontestimonial identification orders.

Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the Administrative Office of the Courts from entering into a sharing agreement with the Office of Indigent Defense Services for the purpose of generating reliable statistical information to evaluate services provided."

SECTION 17.3.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law.

SET TEMPORARY MAXIMUM FOR ATTORNEY COMPENSATION RATES SET BY THE INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES COMMISSION

SECTION 17.4. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, until July 1, 2025, all attorney compensation rates set by the Indigent Defense Services Commission shall not exceed the amount for each rate as of April 1, 2023.

PART XVIII. JUSTICE

MODIFY CRIMINAL JUSTICE FELLOWS PROGRAM

SECTION 18.3.(a) G.S. 17C-20 reads as rewritten:

"§ 17C-20. Definitions.

As used in this Article, the following definitions apply:

- ...
- (5) Eligible county. – A county with a population of less than ~~200,000~~230,000 according to the latest federal decennial census.

...."

SECTION 18.3.(b) G.S. 17C-22 reads as rewritten:

"§ 17C-22. North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program established; administration.

...

(b) Program Administrator. – The Director of the Division shall select a member of the Division staff, with the consent of the Committee, to serve as the Program administrator. The Program administrator will be responsible for all administrative duties and oversight of the Program as established by the Committee. The Program administrator will conduct recruitment efforts to include the following:

(1) ~~Target eligible counties.~~

(2) Target high school graduates who, due to economic circumstances, are displaced, unemployed, or underemployed.

(3) Target high school seniors who demonstrate an interest in being employed in an eligible criminal justice profession.

(4) Engage with employees of eligible criminal justice professions and leaders in eligible counties for input in the Program.

(5) Attend high school career days, job fairs, and other activities to recruit qualified individuals into the Program.

(c) Awards of Forgivable Loans. – The Program shall provide forgivable loans of up to three thousand one hundred fifty-two dollars (\$3,152.00) per year for up to year, totaling a maximum of six thousand three hundred four dollars (\$6,304.00) over two years years, to selected individuals. If the Committee, in its sole discretion, determines that circumstances warrant an extension of the period over which the Program shall provide forgivable loans to a selected individual, the Committee may extend that period to three years but may not increase the maximum loan amount. The funds from the forgivable loans may be used for tuition, fees, and the cost of books. The Committee may determine the maximum amount of loan proceeds that may be applied to community college fees and course textbooks. The number of forgivable loans awarded annually shall not exceed 100 and the total number of recipients in the Program each year shall not exceed 200. The Committee shall select recipients no later than June 1 of each year.

...

(h) Recipient Obligations. – A recipient must become and remain a ~~full-time~~ student at a North Carolina community college in an Applied Associate Degree in Criminal Justice or in a Committee-approved related field of study at all times during each of the recipient's two academic years of community college study and pursue continuously studies that will qualify the recipient to be employed in an eligible criminal justice profession upon graduation. The recipient must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA throughout the course of study and also maintain appropriate credit hours for each semester to obtain an Applied Associate Degree in Criminal Justice or Committee-approved field of study within two years. If the Committee, in its sole discretion, determines that circumstances warrant an extension of the period within which the recipient must obtain an Applied Associate Degree in Criminal Justice or Committee-approved field of study, the Committee may extend that period by up to 12 additional months. The recipient must also accept employment in an eligible county in an eligible criminal justice profession for at least four out of five years following graduation. The Committee may adopt additional recipient obligations it deems appropriate.

...."

SECTION 18.3.(c) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to individuals participating in the Program on or after that date and to Committee extension determinations made on or after that date.

PART XIX. ADULT CORRECTION [RESERVED]

PART XIX-A. DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION ADMINISTRATION**NO TRANSFER OF POSITIONS TO OTHER STATE AGENCIES**

SECTION 19A.1.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Office of State Budget and Management shall not transfer any positions, personnel, or funds from the Department of Adult Correction to any other State agency during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium unless the transfer was included in the base budget for one or both fiscal years of the biennium.

SECTION 19A.1.(b) This section shall not apply to consolidation of information technology positions into the Department of Information Technology pursuant to G.S. 143B-1325.

STATEWIDE MISDEMEANANT CONFINEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING TRANSFER

SECTION 19A.2. Of the funds appropriated in this act for the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program:

- (1) The sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) shall be transferred each fiscal year to the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, to support the Program and for administrative and operating expenses of the Association and its staff.
- (2) The sum of two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) shall be allocated each fiscal year to the Department of Adult Correction for its administrative and operating expenses for the Program.
- (3) Up to the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) may be used in each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to reimburse sheriffs utilizing inmate labor pursuant to the provisions of Section 19C.10 of S.L. 2021-180.

REIMBURSE COUNTIES FOR HOUSING AND EXTRAORDINARY MEDICAL EXPENSES

SECTION 19A.3. Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-6-9, the Department of Adult Correction may use funds available to the Department for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to reimburse counties for the cost of housing convicted inmates, parolees, and post-release supervisees awaiting transfer to the State prison system, as provided in G.S. 148-29. The reimbursement may not exceed forty dollars (\$40.00) per day per prisoner awaiting transfer. Beginning October 1, 2023, the Department shall report quarterly to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the expenditure of funds to reimburse counties for prisoners awaiting transfer.

TRANSFER A PORTION OF ANSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION TO PROVERBS 226 NONPROFIT CORPORATION

SECTION 19A.4.(a) The State of North Carolina shall convey to Proverbs 226, a North Carolina nonprofit corporation, for consideration of one dollar (\$1.00), all its right, title, and interest in the property located in Anson County, North Carolina, to be described as a subdivision consisting of approximately 23 acres from the property generally described in the Anson County Register of Deeds deed referenced in Book 073 Page 399. The conveyance is subject to a reversionary interest reserved by the State. The property shall be conveyed to Proverbs 226 for so long as it is utilized for programs serving the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction or its successors. The Department of Adult Correction and Proverbs 226 shall

1 mutually agree upon the boundaries of the property to be subdivided for conveyance to Proverbs
2 226.

3 **SECTION 19A.4.(b)** The State of North Carolina shall convey the real property
4 described in subsection (a) of this section "as is" "where is" without warranty and subject to any
5 existing easements, covenants, earlier grants to others by the State Property Office, or other
6 restrictions of record. In the event the State of North Carolina requires future easements through
7 this property, Proverbs 226 shall grant these easements without limitation. The State makes no
8 representations or warranties concerning the title to the property, the boundaries of the property,
9 the uses to which the property may be put, zoning, local ordinances, or any physical,
10 environmental, health, and safety conditions relating to the property. All costs associated with
11 the conveyance of the property, including, but not limited to, subdivision, surveying, engineering
12 services, permitting, and utility connections, shall be borne by Proverbs 226.

13 **SECTION 19A.4.(c)** The conveyance of the State's right, title, and interest in the
14 portion conveyed of Anson Correctional Institution shall be exempt from the provisions of
15 Article 7 of Chapter 146 of the General Statutes. The conveyance shall comply with the
16 provisions of Article 16 of Chapter 146 of the General Statutes, provided that the provisions of
17 G.S. 146-74 shall not apply.

18 **PART XIX-B. PRISONS**

19 **CENTER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS/CONTRACT AND REPORT**

20
21 **SECTION 19B.1.** The Department of Adult Correction may continue to contract
22 with The Center for Community Transitions, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the purchase of
23 prison beds for minimum security female inmates during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. The
24 Center for Community Transitions, Inc., shall report by February 1 of each year to the chairs of
25 the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the
26 Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the annual cost per inmate and
27 the average daily inmate population compared to bed capacity using the same methodology as
28 that used by the Department of Adult Correction.

29 **NURSE STAFFING AT STATE PRISONS REPORT**

30
31 **SECTION 19B.2.(a)** The Department of Adult Correction shall report the following
32 information to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety by
33 February 1, 2024, and by February 1, 2025:

- 34 (1) The total number of permanent nursing positions allocated to the Department,
35 the number of filled positions, the number of positions that have been vacant
36 for more than six months, and information regarding the location of both filled
37 and vacant positions.
- 38 (2) The extent to which temporary contract services are being used to staff vacant
39 nursing positions, the method for funding the contract services, and any cost
40 differences between the use of permanent employees versus contract
41 employees.
- 42 (3) A progress report on the implementation of its plan to (i) reduce the use of
43 contract services to provide nursing in State prisons and (ii) attract and retain
44 qualified nurses for employment in permanent positions in State prisons.

45 **SECTION 19B.2.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department
46 of Adult Correction may, in its discretion and subject to the approval of the Office of State Budget
47 and Management, convert funds appropriated for contractual nursing services to permanent
48 nursing positions when it is determined to promote security, generate cost savings, and improve
49 health care quality. The Department shall report on any such conversions to the Fiscal Research
50 Division.
51

CODIFY DEPARTMENT REPORT ON PRISON PERSONNEL MATTERS

SECTION 19B.3. Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 143B-1457.2. Report on prison personnel matters.

The Department shall report the following information to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety by February 1 of each year:

- (1) The number of Department employees charged with the commission of a criminal offense committed in a State prison and during the employee's work hours. The information shall be provided by State facility and shall specify the offense charged and the outcome of the charge.
- (2) The number of employees disciplined, demoted, or separated from service due to personal misconduct. To the extent it does not disclose confidential personnel records, the information shall be organized by type of misconduct, nature of corrective action taken, and outcome of the corrective action.
- (3) The hiring and screening process, including any required credentials or skills, criminal background checks, and personality assessments. The information shall also include the process the Department uses to verify the information provided by an applicant."

DOT CONTRACT OF INMATE LITTER CREW

SECTION 19B.4.(a) After the issuance of a request for information (RFI) and receipt of bids by the Department of Transportation for litter pickup on State highways and roads, the Department of Transportation shall first offer the contract to the Department of Adult Correction upon the same terms and conditions as the most favorable bid received by the Department of Transportation from a suitable contractor. The Department of Adult Correction shall have 30 days to accept or decline the offered contract.

SECTION 19B.4.(b) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the Department of Transportation shall utilize inmate litter crews for litter pickup on State highways and roads as often as is necessary and practicable.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PRISON TECHNOLOGY

SECTION 19B.5.(a) Section 19C.11(b) of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 19C.11.(b) The Department of ~~Public Safety~~ Adult Correction shall, in consultation with the vendor, report on the expenditure of the funds awarded pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than October 1, 2022, in an interim report and no later than October 1, 2023, in a ~~final report~~ final report of each year in which the funds are expended, provided that if the funds are exhausted after a report has already been submitted for that year, a final report shall be submitted no later than May 1 of the following year."

SECTION 19B.5.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law.

TECHNICAL CORRECTION FOR INMATE WELFARE FUND

SECTION 19B.6.(a) G.S. 148-2(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Notwithstanding G.S. 147-77, Article 6A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes, or any other provision of law, the Division of Prisons of the Department of Adult Correction may deposit revenue from prison canteens in local banks. The profits from prison canteens shall be deposited with the State Treasurer on a monthly basis in a fund denominated as the ~~Correction~~ Inmate Welfare Fund. Once the operating budget for the ~~Correction~~-Inmate Welfare Fund has been met, an amount equal to the funds allocated to each prison unit on a per inmate per year basis shall be credited to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund established in G.S. 15B-23G as

1 soon as practicable after the total amount paid to each unit per inmate per year has been
2 determined."

3 **SECTION 19B.6.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
4

5 **TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATED TO NEW DEPARTMENT OF ADULT**
6 **CORRECTION**

7 **SECTION 19B.7.(a)** G.S. 148-32.1(b2) reads as rewritten:

8 "(b2) The Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program is established. The Program
9 shall provide for the housing of misdemeanants from all counties serving sentences imposed for
10 a period of more than 90 days and for all sentences imposed for impaired driving under
11 G.S. 20-138.1, regardless of length. Those misdemeanants shall be confined in local confinement
12 facilities except as provided in subsections (b3) and (b4) of this section. The Program shall
13 address methods for the placement and transportation of inmates and reimbursement to counties
14 for the housing of those inmates. Any county that voluntarily agrees to house misdemeanants
15 from that county or from other counties pursuant to the Program may enter into a written
16 agreement with the Division of ~~Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice~~ Prisons to do so.

17 The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association shall:

18"

19 **SECTION 19B.7.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
20

21 **PART XIX-C. COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**
22

23 **INTERSTATE COMPACT FEES TO SUPPORT TRAINING PROGRAMS AND**
24 **EQUIPMENT PURCHASES SECTIONS**

25 **SECTION 19C.1.(a)** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 148-65.7, fees
26 collected for the Interstate Compact Fund during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium may be used by
27 the Department of Adult Correction during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to provide training
28 programs and equipment purchases for the Division of Community Supervision and Reentry, but
29 only to the extent sufficient funds remain available in the Fund to support the mission of the
30 Interstate Compact Program.

31 **SECTION 19C.1.(b)** No later than October 1 of each fiscal year, the Department of
32 Adult Correction shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public
33 Safety on the amount of funds used pursuant to this section and for what purposes the funds were
34 used.
35

36 **MAKE DRUG AND ALCOHOL SCREENING A REGULAR CONDITION OF**
37 **PROBATION**

38 **SECTION 19C.2.(a)** G.S. 15A-1343(b) reads as rewritten:

39 "(b) Regular Conditions. – As regular conditions of probation, a defendant must:

40 ...

41 (16) ~~Supply a breath, urine, or blood specimen~~ Submit to drug and alcohol
42 screening for analysis of the possible presence of prohibited drugs or alcohol
43 when instructed by the defendant's probation officer for purposes directly
44 related to the probation supervision. If the results of the analysis are positive,
45 the probationer may be required to reimburse the Division of Community
46 Supervision and Reentry of the Department of Adult Correction for the actual
47 costs of drug or alcohol screening and testing.
48

49 ...

49 In addition to these regular conditions of probation, a defendant required to serve an active
50 term of imprisonment as a condition of special probation pursuant to G.S. 15A-1344(e) or
51 G.S. 15A-1351(a) shall, as additional regular conditions of probation, obey the rules and

1 regulations of the Division of Prisons of the Department of Adult Correction and, if applicable,
2 the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, governing the conduct of
3 inmates while imprisoned and report to a probation officer in the State of North Carolina within
4 72 hours of his discharge from the active term of imprisonment.

5 Regular conditions of probation apply to each defendant placed on supervised probation
6 unless the presiding judge specifically exempts the defendant from one or more of the conditions
7 in open court and in the judgment of the court. It is not necessary for the presiding judge to state
8 each regular condition of probation in open court, but the conditions must be set forth in the
9 judgment of the court.

10 Defendants placed on unsupervised probation are subject to the provisions of this subsection,
11 except that defendants placed on unsupervised probation are not subject to the regular conditions
12 contained in subdivisions (2), (3), (6), (8), (13), (14), (15), (16) and (17) of this subsection."

13 **SECTION 19C.2.(b)** This section becomes effective August 1, 2023, and applies to
14 drug and alcohol screening performed on or after that date.

15 16 **EXPAND AUTHORITY TO INCREASE WAGES PAID TO WORKING NORTH** 17 **CAROLINA INMATES**

18 **SECTION 19C.3.(a)** G.S. 148-18(a) reads as rewritten:

19 "(a) Prisoners employed by Correction Enterprises shall be compensated as set forth in
20 Article 14 of this Chapter. Prisoners participating in work assignments established by the
21 Division of Prisons shall be compensated at rates fixed by the Division of Prisons of the
22 Department of Adult Correction's rules and regulations; provided, that no prisoner so paid shall
23 receive more than one dollar (\$1.00) per day, unless the prisoner is performing work for the
24 Division's BRIDGE Program or the Secretary determines that the work assignment requires
25 special skills or training. Upon approval of the Secretary, inmates working for the BRIDGE
26 Program or in job assignments requiring special skills or training may be paid up to five dollars
27 (\$5.00) per day. The Correction Enterprises Fund shall be the source of wages and allowances
28 provided to inmates who are employed by the Division of Prisons of the Department of Adult
29 Correction in work assignments established by the Division of Prisons."

30 **SECTION 19C.3.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
31 work performed on or after that date.

32 33 **MODIFY PRISON CHAPLAIN EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

34 **SECTION 19C.4.(a)** The Department of Adult Correction shall have no written or
35 unwritten policy setting mandatory minimum educational requirements for persons serving as
36 community-funded or volunteer chaplains.

37 **SECTION 19C.4.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

38 39 **EXTEND SUNSET DATE FOR USE OF SECURITY GUARDS AT STATE PRISONS**

40 **SECTION 19C.5.(a)** Section 4.15(c) of S.L. 2020-3, as amended by Section 2 of
41 S.L. 2020-15, Section 19D.2 of S.L. 2021-180, Section 12 of S.L. 2022-58, and Section 19D.1
42 of S.L. 2022-74, reads as rewritten:

43 **"SECTION 4.15.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law and expires ~~upon the~~
44 ~~earlier of August 1, 2023, or the date of completion of the Youth Development Center in~~
45 ~~Roekingham County on June 30, 2025."~~

46 **SECTION 19C.5.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

47 48 **REVISE LAW GOVERNING THE MEDICAL RELEASE OF INMATES**

49 **SECTION 19C.6.(a)** Article 84B of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes reads as
50 rewritten:

51 "Article 84B.

"Medical Release of Inmates.

"§ 15A-1369. Definitions.

~~For purposes of this Article, the term:~~ The following definitions apply to this Article:

- (1) ~~"Commission" means the~~ Commission. – ~~The~~ Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission.
- (1a) ~~"Department" means the~~ Department. – ~~The~~ Department of Adult Correction.
- ...
- (3) ~~"Geriatric" describes an inmate~~ Geriatric. – ~~An inmate who is 65-55 years of age or older and suffers from chronic infirmity, illness, or disease related to aging that has progressed such that the inmate is medically incapacitated to the extent that he or she does not pose a~~ and is also determined to pose either no risk or low risk to public safety risk.safety.
- (4) ~~"Inmate" means any~~ Inmate. – ~~Any~~ person sentenced to the custody of the Department.
- (5) ~~"Medical release" means a~~ Medical release. – ~~A~~ program enabling the Commission to release inmates who are permanently and totally disabled, terminally ill, or geriatric.
- (6) ~~"Medical release plan" means a~~ Medical release plan. – ~~A~~ comprehensive written medical and psychosocial care plan that is specific to the inmate and includes, at a ~~minimum:~~minimum, all of the following:
- a. ~~The proposed course of treatment;~~treatment.
 - b. ~~The proposed site for treatment and post-treatment care;~~care.
 - c. ~~Documentation that medical providers qualified to provide the medical services identified in the medical release plan are prepared to provide those services;~~ and services.
 - d. ~~The financial program in place to cover the cost of this plan for the duration of the medical release, which shall include eligibility for enrollment in commercial insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid or access to other adequate financial resources for the duration of the medical release.~~
- (7) ~~"Permanently and totally disabled" describes an~~ Permanently and totally disabled. – ~~An inmate who, as determined by a licensed physician, suffers from permanent and irreversible physical incapacitation as a result of an existing physical or medical condition that was unknown at the time of sentencing or, since the time of sentencing, has progressed to render the inmate permanently and totally disabled, such that the inmate does not pose a public safety risk.~~ disabled.
- (8) ~~"Terminally ill" describes an~~ Terminally ill. – ~~An inmate who, as determined by a licensed physician, has an incurable condition caused by illness or disease that was unknown at the time of sentencing or, since the time of sentencing, has progressed to render the inmate terminally ill, and that will likely produce death within six~~ nine ~~months, and that is so debilitating such that the inmate does not pose a~~ poses no risk or low risk to public safety risk.safety.

...

"§ 15A-1369.2. Eligibility.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, notwithstanding any other provision of law, an inmate is eligible to be considered for medical release if the Department determines that the inmate ~~is:~~ meets both of the following criteria:

- (1) ~~Diagnosed~~ The inmate is diagnosed as permanently and totally disabled, terminally ill, or geriatric under the procedure described in G.S. 15A-1369.3(b)(1); and G.S. 15A-1369.3(b)(1).

(2) ~~Incapacitated~~ The inmate is incapacitated to the extent that the inmate does not pose a poses no risk or low risk to public safety risk safety.

...
"§ 15A-1369.3. Procedure for medical release.

...
(b) The referral shall include an assessment of the inmate's medical and psychosocial condition and the risk the inmate poses to society, as follows:

(1) The Department medical director, or a designee of the director who is a licensed physician, shall review the case of each inmate who meets the eligibility requirements for medical release set forth in G.S. 15A-1369.2. Any physician who examines an inmate being considered for medical release shall prepare a written diagnosis that ~~includes~~ includes both of the following:

- a. A description of any and all terminal conditions, physical incapacities, and chronic ~~conditions~~ and conditions.
- b. A prognosis concerning the likelihood of recovery from any and all terminal conditions, physical incapacities, and chronic conditions.

...
"§ 15A-1369.4. Conditions of medical release.

(a) The Commission shall set reasonable conditions upon an inmate's medical release that shall apply through the date upon which the inmate's sentence would have expired. These conditions shall include all of the following:

...
(3) That the released inmate shall be subject to supervision by the Division of Community Supervision ~~and Reentry~~ of the Department of Adult Correction and shall permit officers from the Division to visit the inmate at reasonable times at the inmate's home or elsewhere.

...."

SECTION 19C.6.(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 15A-1369.3(f), an inmate who received a medical release denial under Article 84B of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes prior to the effective date of this section may reapply or be reconsidered for medical release under Article 84B of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes, as amended by subsection (a) of this section. Any denial of a reapplication or reconsideration authorized under this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of G.S. 15A-1369.3(f).

SECTION 19C.6.(c) This section is effective when it becomes law.

PART XIX-D. REHABILITATION AND REENTRY [RESERVED]

PART XIX-E. PUBLIC SAFETY [RESERVED]

PART XIX-F. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

NO TRANSFER OF POSITIONS TO OTHER STATE AGENCIES

SECTION 19F.1.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Office of State Budget and Management shall not transfer any positions, personnel, or funds from the Department of Public Safety to any other State agency during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium unless the transfer was included in the base budget for one or both fiscal years of the biennium.

SECTION 19F.1.(b) This section shall not apply to consolidation of information technology positions into the Department of Information Technology pursuant to G.S. 143B-1325.

**COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO SHERIFFS' OFFICES FOR ADDICTION TREATMENT
IN JAILS**

SECTION 19F.3.(a) Section 19A.10(f) of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 19A.10.(f) The working group created under subsection (e) of this section shall establish the operational criteria and application process for the grant program created by this section and shall communicate information regarding the grant program to all sheriffs' offices in the State. The working group shall evaluate applications for each of the categories under subsection (b) of this section and may award lower amounts than requested to individual sheriffs' offices in order to assure broader access to funds. The working group may establish protocols for the allotment of funds to assure that funds can be expended efficiently. The working group shall ensure all Federal Drug Administration (FDA)-approved Buprenorphine and Naltrexone drug regimens for the treatment of opioid dependence through Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in jails be considered as options for treatment under this grant."

SECTION 19F.3.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law.

PART XIX-G. LAW ENFORCEMENT**STATE CAPITOL POLICE/CREATION OF RECEIPT-SUPPORTED POSITIONS**

SECTION 19G.1.(a) Creation of Receipt-Supported Positions Authorized. – The State Capitol Police may contract with State agencies for the creation of receipt-supported positions to provide security services to the buildings occupied by those agencies.

SECTION 19G.1.(b) Annual Report Required. – No later than September 1 of each fiscal year, the State Capitol Police shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety the following information for the fiscal year in which the report is due:

- (1) A list of all positions in the State Capitol Police. For each position listed, the report shall include at least the following information:
 - a. The position type.
 - b. The agency to which the position is assigned.
 - c. The source of funding for the position.
- (2) For each receipt-supported position listed, the contract and any other terms of the contract.

SECTION 19G.1.(c) Additional Reporting Required Upon Creation of Receipt-Supported Positions. – In addition to the report required by subsection (b) of this section, the State Capitol Police shall report the creation of any position pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and to the Fiscal Research Division within 30 days of the position's creation. A report submitted pursuant to this section shall include at least all of the following information:

- (1) The position type.
- (2) The agency to which the position is being assigned.
- (3) The position salary.
- (4) The total amount of the contract.
- (5) The terms of the contract.

SECTION 19G.1.(d) Format of Reports. – Reports submitted pursuant to this section shall be submitted electronically and in accordance with any applicable General Assembly standards.

USE OF SEIZED AND FORFEITED PROPERTY

SECTION 19G.2.(a) Seized and forfeited assets transferred to the Department of Justice, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Adult Correction during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium pursuant to applicable federal law shall be credited to the budget of the recipient

1 department and shall result in an increase of law enforcement resources for that department. The
 2 Department of Justice, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Adult Correction shall
 3 each make the following reports to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations
 4 Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and
 5 Public Safety:

- 6 (1) A report upon receipt of any assets.
- 7 (2) A report that shall be made prior to use of the assets on their intended use and
 8 the departmental priorities on which the assets may be expended.
- 9 (3) A report on receipts, expenditures, encumbrances, and availability of these
 10 assets for the previous fiscal year, which shall be made no later than
 11 September 1 of each year.

12 **SECTION 19G.2.(b)** The General Assembly finds that the use of seized and
 13 forfeited assets transferred pursuant to federal law for new personnel positions, new projects,
 14 acquisition of real property, repair of buildings where the repair includes structural change, and
 15 construction of or additions to buildings may result in additional expenses for the State in future
 16 fiscal periods. Therefore, the Department of Justice, Department of Public Safety, and
 17 Department of Adult Correction are prohibited from using these assets for such purposes without
 18 the prior approval of the General Assembly.

19 **SECTION 19G.2.(c)** Nothing in this section prohibits State law enforcement
 20 agencies from receiving funds from the United States Department of Justice, the United States
 21 Department of the Treasury, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

22 **SECTION 19G.2.(d)** The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and
 23 Public Safety shall study the impact on State and local law enforcement efforts of the receipt of
 24 seized and forfeited assets. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations prior
 25 to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session of the 2023 General Assembly.

26 **PROPERTY OWNERS PROTECTION ACT**

27 **SECTION 19G.5.(a)** G.S. 14-159.13 reads as rewritten:

28 **"§ 14-159.13. Second degree trespass.**

29 (a) Offense. – A person commits the offense of second degree trespass if, without
 30 authorization, ~~he~~ the person enters or remains on premises of another: on any of the following:

- 31 (1) ~~After he~~ On premises of another after the person has been notified not to enter
 32 or remain there by the owner, by a person in charge of the premises, by a
 33 lawful occupant, or by another authorized ~~person;~~ or person.
- 34 (2) ~~That~~ On premises that are posted, in a manner reasonably likely to come to
 35 the attention of intruders, with notice not to enter the premises.
- 36 (3) On the curtilage of a dwelling of another between the hours of midnight and
 37 6:00 A.M.

38 (b) ~~Classification.—Second degree trespass is a Class 3 misdemeanor. Penalties. – A~~
 39 violation of subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor. A violation of
 40 subdivision (a)(3) of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor."

41 **SECTION 19G.5.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies
 42 to offenses committed on or after that date.

43 **PART XIX-H. JUVENILE JUSTICE**

44 **LIMIT USE OF COMMUNITY PROGRAM FUNDS**

45 **SECTION 19H.1.(a)** Funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public
 46 Safety for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for community program contracts, that are not required
 47 for or used for community program contracts, may be used only for the following:
 48
 49
 50

- 1 (1) Other statewide residential programs that provide Level 2 intermediate
2 dispositional alternatives for juveniles.
- 3 (2) Statewide community programs that provide Level 2 intermediate
4 dispositional alternatives for juveniles.
- 5 (3) Regional programs that are collaboratives of two or more Juvenile Crime
6 Prevention Councils which provide Level 2 intermediate dispositional
7 alternatives for juveniles.
- 8 (4) The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funds to be used for the Level 2
9 intermediate dispositional alternatives for juveniles listed in
10 G.S. 7B-2506(13) through (23).

11 **SECTION 19H.1.(b)** Funds appropriated by this act to the Department of Public
12 Safety for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for community programs may not be used for staffing,
13 operations, maintenance, or any other expenses of youth development centers or detention
14 facilities.

15 **SECTION 19H.1.(c)** The Department of Public Safety shall submit an electronic
16 report by October 1 of each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium on all expenditures made in
17 the preceding fiscal year from the miscellaneous contract line in Fund Code 1230 to the chairs of
18 the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the
19 Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Fiscal Research Division.
20 The report shall include all of the following: an itemized list of the contracts that have been
21 executed, the amount of each contract, the date the contract was executed, the purpose of the
22 contract, the number of juveniles that will be served and the manner in which they will be served,
23 the amount of money transferred to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council fund, and an itemized
24 list of grants allocated from the funds transferred to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council fund.

25 26 **PART XIX-I. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND NATIONAL GUARD**

27 28 **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MODIFICATIONS**

29 **SECTION 19I.1.(a)** The funds appropriated to the Division of Emergency
30 Management of the Department of Public Safety in (i) the Committee Report, as described in
31 Section 39.2 of S.L. 2018-5, for GuardianAngel Emergency Management Personnel/Equipment
32 Tracking Tool referenced in Item 12 on Page E9 of that report and (ii) the Committee Report, as
33 described in Section 43.2 of S.L. 2021-180, for Asset Tracking and Management – UNC
34 referenced in Item 152 on Page E51 of that report, shall instead be used by the Division, the
35 North Carolina National Guard, and other agencies for funding for licenses and payment of
36 vendor fees for personnel and equipment tracking and management capabilities.

37 **SECTION 19I.1.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
38

39 **COMPETITIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANTS**

40 **SECTION 19I.2.(a)** The funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public
41 Safety, Division of Emergency Management, to provide competitive grants to county emergency
42 management agencies established in accordance with G.S. 166A-19.15 shall only be awarded to
43 county emergency management agencies located in counties with a population of 230,000 or
44 fewer, based upon the 2021 Certified County Population Estimates from the State Demographer
45 in the Office of State Budget and Management, as of July 1, 2021. Grants shall be used to ensure
46 local emergency management offices are adequately equipped, trained, and prepared for all
47 hazards and emergencies. The Division shall develop policies and procedures to implement a
48 competitive grant program consistent with this section.

49 **SECTION 19I.2.(b)** The Division shall report on the awarding of grant funds
50 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section by April 1, 2024.
51

CYBERSECURITY REPORTING

SECTION 19I.3.(a) Part 8 of Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 166A-19.78A. Cybersecurity reporting.

Requests from local jurisdictions, State agencies, or critical infrastructure partners for operational support from or access to operational cyber resources shall be sent to the North Carolina Emergency Management 24-Hour Watch for intake and activation as needed."

SECTION 19I.3.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law.

PART XX. ADMINISTRATION**DOA/E-PROCUREMENT TRANSACTION FEES**

SECTION 20.1. Article 3 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 143-48.3A. Electronic procurement fees.

The Department of Administration shall impose a transaction fee of one and seventy-five hundredths percent (1.75%) on purchase orders for material goods. The Department shall not increase or decrease the transaction fee on purchase orders for material goods or impose a transaction fee on purchase orders for services without the express authorization of the General Assembly."

CHANGE REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT GRANTS

SECTION 20.2.(a) G.S. 50B-9(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) On or before September 1, the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement shall report on the quarterly distributions of ~~the~~ grants from the Domestic Violence Center Fund for the current fiscal year and the prior fiscal year to the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee on General Government and the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology and to the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the following:

- (1) Date, amount, and recipients of the fund disbursements.
- (2) Eligible programs which are ineligible to receive funding during the relative reporting cycle as well as the reason of the ineligibility for that relative reporting cycle."

SECTION 20.2.(b) G.S. 143B-394.21(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) On or before September 1, the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement shall report on the quarterly distributions of ~~the~~ grants from the Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Center Fund for the current fiscal year and the prior fiscal year to the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee on General Government, the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the following:

- (1) Date, amount, and recipients of the fund disbursements.
- (2) Eligible programs which are ineligible to receive funding during the relative reporting cycle, as well as the reason of the ineligibility for that relative reporting cycle."

PART XXI. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**INCREASE COMPENSATION FOR RULES REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS**

SECTION 21.1. G.S. 143B-30.1(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Members of the Commission who are not officers or employees of the State shall receive compensation of two hundred fifty dollars ~~(\$200.00)-(\$250.00)~~ for each day or part of a day of service plus reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses at the rates specified in G.S. 138-5. Members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the State shall receive reimbursement for travel and subsistence at the rate set out in G.S. 138-6."

PART XXII. OFFICE OF STATE AUDITOR [RESERVED]

PART XXIII. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

NCPRO/EXTENSION OF OPERATIONS

SECTION 23.1. Section 4.3(a) of S.L. 2020-4, as amended by Section 3.5 of S.L. 2021-1, Section 23.2 of S.L. 2021-180, and Section 6.1 of S.L. 2021-189, reads as rewritten:

"**SECTION 4.3.(a)** OSBM shall establish a temporary North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office (Office) to oversee and coordinate funds made available under COVID-19 Recovery Legislation, as defined in Section 1.2 of S.L. 2020-4, and the American Rescue Plan Act, as defined in Section 1.1 of S.L. 2021-25 and Section 4.9(b) of S.L. 2021-180. This Office shall also provide technical assistance and ensure coordination of federal funds received by State agencies and local governments and ensure proper reporting and accounting of all funds. The authorization set forth in this section expires on ~~June 30, 2023,~~ June 30, 2025, and the Office shall cease to operate upon expiration of the authorization."

STATEWIDE FEDERAL MATCHING AND ADMINISTRATION FUNDS

SECTION 23.2.(a) Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) from the Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve, the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be used by OSBM as follows:

- (1) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to aid State agencies in hiring time-limited positions or third-party contractors to assist the agencies in applying for federal grants available under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58), the Chips and Science Act of 2022 (CHIPS) (P.L. 117-167), and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) (P.L. 117-169).
- (2) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to provide funds to State agencies that must meet a state match requirement in order to procure federal funds from the IIJA, CHIPS, or IRA. The funds allocated in this subdivision may not be provided to a State agency for any federal grant (i) for which the agency is allocated funds from the Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve in this act or (ii) for which state matching funds are included in the agency's base budget.

SECTION 23.2.(b) Funds appropriated for the purposes authorized in subsection (a) of this section that are unencumbered on June 30, 2024, shall not revert to the Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve but shall remain available for the purposes authorized in subsection (a) of this section until the funds are expended.

SECTION 23.2.(c) Not later than February 1, 2024, and February 1 of each year thereafter until the funds are expended, OSBM shall submit a written report to the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division which shall include all of the following:

- (1) For each agency that requested funds from OSBM to meet the federal state match requirement for IIJA, CHIPS, or IRA:

- 1 a. The number of grant applications submitted to federal agencies and
- 2 the number of grants awarded to the agency as a result of the
- 3 applications.
- 4 b. The name of each federal agency to which the agency submitted a
- 5 grant application, the name of each federal grant applied for, the type
- 6 of federal grant (formula, competitive, or other), and a brief
- 7 description of the purpose of the federal grant. If the type of funding
- 8 was identified as "other," the type of funding must be clearly
- 9 identified.
- 10 c. The amount of federal funds the agency applied for and the amount of
- 11 the state match requirement for each federal grant application.
- 12 d. The amount of federal funds awarded and the amount of funds
- 13 allocated to the agency by OSBM to meet the federal state match
- 14 requirement.
- 15 (2) The agencies that used funds allocated by OSBM to hire time-limited
- 16 positions to assist in applying for IIJA, CHIPS, or IRA grants, the amount of
- 17 funds allocated to each agency to hire these time-limited positions, and the
- 18 number of time-limited positions hired by each agency.
- 19 (3) The agencies that used funds allocated by OSBM to hire third-party
- 20 contractors to assist in applying for IIJA, CHIPS, or IRA grants, the amount
- 21 of funds allocated to each agency to hire these third-party contractors, and the
- 22 names of the third-party contractors.
- 23

PART XXIV. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT – SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

REGISTER OF DEEDS GRANT PROGRAM

SECTION 24.6. Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Office of State Budget and Management – Special Appropriations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) in nonrecurring funds shall be used to create a grant program for county register of deeds offices. The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) shall administer the program and disburse grant funds as follows:

- 32 (1) County register of deeds offices shall apply for the funds in the manner
- 33 prescribed by OSBM.
- 34 (2) Applicants shall use grant funds for the preservation of historic records and
- 35 files. Allowable uses of the funds include, but are not limited to, document
- 36 restoration, reparation, deacidification, and placement in protected archival
- 37 binders.
- 38 (3) Funds may be used for document digitization only if the original documents
- 39 will continue to be maintained and preserved.
- 40 (4) The maximum grant amount to each office shall be two thousand dollars
- 41 (\$2,000). Additional grant funds shall be disbursed in a second round of
- 42 applications based on availability of funds. The maximum amount of the
- 43 second-round grants shall be determined by OSBM. The provisions of this
- 44 section shall apply if a second round of grants is administered.
- 45 (5) Grantees must provide a one hundred percent (100%) match for all grant funds
- 46 awarded.
- 47

PART XXV. OFFICE OF STATE CONTROLLER

AUTHORIZE STATE CONTROLLER TO RETAIN PRIVATE COUNSEL, DESIGNATE EXEMPT POSITIONS, AND SET SALARY OF EXEMPT POSITIONS

1 **SECTION 25.1.(a)** G.S. 143B-426.38 reads as rewritten:

2 "**§ 143B-426.38. Organization and operation of office.**

3 ...

4 (d) The State Controller may, subject to the provisions of G.S. 147-64.7(b)(2), obtain the
5 services of independent public accountants, attorneys, qualified management consultants, and
6 other professional persons or experts to carry out his powers and duties. Notwithstanding
7 G.S. 147-17 and G.S. 114-2.3, the State Controller may retain private counsel to represent his or
8 her interests in litigation related to his or her financial management of State appropriations by
9 the General Assembly. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 143C-6-9(b), the State Controller
10 may use lapsed salary savings to retain private counsel to provide litigation services.

11 (e) The State Controller shall have legal custody of all books, papers, documents, email
12 files, organizational internet domain names, digital files, online website content, and other
13 records of the office.

14 "

15 **SECTION 25.1.(b)** G.S. 126-5 reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 126-5. Employees subject to Chapter; exemptions.**

17 ...

18 (c14) Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the contrary, each Council of State
19 agency and the Office of the State Controller has the sole authority to set the salary of its exempt
20 policymaking and exempt managerial positions within the minimum rates, and the maximum
21 rates plus ten percent (10%), established by the State Human Resources Commission under
22 G.S. 126-4(2).

23 ...

24 (d) (1) Exempt Positions in Cabinet Department. – Subject to this Chapter, which is
25 known as the North Carolina Human Resources Act, the Governor may
26 designate a total of 425 exempt positions throughout the following
27 departments and offices:

28 ...

29 (2) Exempt Positions in Council of State Departments and ~~Offices.~~ Offices and
30 the Office of the State Controller. – The Secretary of State, the Auditor, the
31 Treasurer, the Attorney General, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the
32 Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Insurance, ~~and the Labor~~
33 ~~Commissioner-Commissioner, and the State Controller~~ may designate exempt
34 positions. The number of exempt policymaking positions in each department
35 headed by an elected department head listed in this subdivision is limited to
36 25 exempt policymaking positions or two percent (2%) of the total number of
37 full-time positions in the department, whichever is greater. The number of
38 exempt managerial positions is limited to 25 positions or two percent (2%) of
39 the total number of full-time positions in the department, whichever is greater.
40 The number of exempt policymaking positions designated by the
41 Superintendent of Public Instruction is limited to 70 exempt policymaking
42 positions or two percent (2%) of the total number of full-time positions in the
43 department, whichever is greater. The number of exempt managerial positions
44 designated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction is limited to 70 exempt
45 managerial positions or two percent (2%) of the total number of full-time
46 positions in the department, whichever is greater. The total number of exempt
47 positions, policymaking and managerial, designated by the Office of the State
48 Controller is limited to 10.

49 ...

50 (4) Vacancies. – In the event of a vacancy in the Office of ~~Governor or in~~
51 Governor, the office of a member of the Council of State, or the Office of the

1 State Controller, the person who succeeds to or is appointed or elected to fill
2 the unexpired term shall make designations in a letter to the Director of the
3 Office of State Human Resources, the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives, and the President of the Senate within 180 days after the oath
5 of office is administered to that person.

6 "

8 **OVERPAYMENTS AUDIT**

9 **SECTION 25.2.(a)** During the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, receipts generated by the
10 collection of inadvertent overpayments by State agencies to vendors as a result of pricing errors,
11 neglected rebates and discounts, miscalculated freight charges, unclaimed refunds, erroneously
12 paid excise taxes, and related errors shall be deposited in Special Reserve Account 24172 as
13 required by G.S. 147-86.22(c).

14 **SECTION 25.2.(b)** Of the funds appropriated in this act from Special Reserve
15 Account 24172, and for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, two hundred fifty
16 thousand dollars (\$250,000) of the funds shall be used by the Office of the State Controller for
17 data processing, debt collection, or e-commerce costs.

18 **SECTION 25.2.(c)** The State Controller shall report annually to the Joint Legislative
19 Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division on the revenue
20 deposited into Special Reserve Account 24172 and the disbursement of that revenue.

22 **PART XXVI. ELECTIONS**

24 **SBE/POST-ELECTION AUDIT REPORT**

25 **SECTION 26.2.** G.S. 163-182.12A reads as rewritten:

26 "**§ 163-182.12A. Post-election audits.**

27 (a) After conducting a post-election ~~audit~~, audit for each election as required by this
28 Chapter, except for a general election, the State Board shall produce a report which summarizes
29 the audit, including the rationale for and the findings of the audit. ~~The~~ After conducting a
30 post-election audit for a general election, the State Board shall produce a report which shall
31 include all of the following:

32 (1) A summary of the types of post-election audits required by law and the
33 requirements for conducting each of the audits.

34 (2) A summary of the results of each of the post-election audits described in
35 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

36 (3) A detailed description of each of the post-election audits described in
37 subdivision (1) of this subsection, including any issues that could have
38 affected the outcome of the election and the manner in which those issues
39 were resolved.

40 (4) A description of any systemic issues that were identified during the
41 post-election audits and any recommendations on the manner in which those
42 issues should be addressed to ensure election security and integrity.

43 (5) The ways in which the public were allowed to observe and comment on the
44 conduct of the post-election audits, as authorized by law.

45 (6) Any other matters deemed appropriate by the State Board.

46 (b) Each report required by subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the Joint
47 Legislative Elections Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
48 General Government within 10 business days of the date the audit is completed."

50 **SBE/PROHIBIT ERIC MEMBERSHIP**

51 **SECTION 26.3.(a)** Section 26.3 of S.L. 2022-74 is repealed.

1 **SECTION 26.3.(b)** The State may not become a member of the Electronic
2 Registration Information Center, Inc. (ERIC).

3
4 **PART XXVII. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

5
6 **CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION EXEMPTION FOR FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS**
7 **FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

8 **SECTION 27.1.(a)** Finding. – The General Assembly finds that licensed attorneys
9 who are full-time employees of the North Carolina General Assembly draft the general and local
10 laws of this State, which requires extensive writing skills and researching capabilities similar to
11 those required of full-time judicial law clerks employed by the judicial branch and full-time law
12 professors. These full-time law clerks and full-time law professors have been granted exemptions
13 from the continuing legal education requirements established by the North Carolina State Bar for
14 any calendar year in which they serve some portion thereof in their capacity as a law clerk or law
15 professor. Further, licensed attorneys who are members of the General Assembly have also been
16 granted an exemption from continuing legal education requirements for any calendar year in
17 which they serve some portion thereof as a member of the General Assembly. The General
18 Assembly finds that given the similarities of the professional skills and abilities required by
19 licensed attorneys who are full-time judicial law clerks, full-time law professors, and full-time
20 employees of the General Assembly to perform their duties, there is ample justification for
21 providing that licensed attorneys who are full-time employees of the General Assembly should
22 be granted an exemption from the continuing legal education requirements established by the
23 North Carolina State Bar for any calendar year in which they serve some portion thereof in their
24 capacity as full-time employees of the General Assembly.

25 **SECTION 27.1.(b)** Full-Time Attorneys for General Assembly. – Notwithstanding
26 any other provision of law or rule, the North Carolina State Bar Council shall adopt rules in
27 accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 84 of the General Statutes to provide that full-time
28 employees of the North Carolina General Assembly are exempt from the continuing legal
29 education requirements established by the North Carolina State Bar for any calendar year in
30 which they serve some portion thereof in their capacity as full-time employees of the North
31 Carolina General Assembly. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to Part 3 of
32 Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. Until such time that the Bar Council adopts
33 rules as required by this section, full-time employees of the North Carolina General Assembly
34 shall be exempt from the continuing legal education requirements established by the North
35 Carolina State Bar for any calendar year in which they serve some portion thereof in their
36 capacity as full-time employees of the North Carolina General Assembly.

37 **SECTION 27.1.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

38
39 **GA/STUDY OSHR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR HIRING STATE**
40 **EMPLOYEES**

41 **SECTION 27.3.(a)** The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General
42 Government shall study the Office of State Human Resource's (OSHR) policies and procedures
43 for hiring State employees with an emphasis on identifying ways to reduce the amount of time it
44 takes for State agencies to hire State employees. The inquiry may include, but is not limited to,
45 examination of the following:

- 46 (1) Review of the State application process, focusing on time to fill and time to
47 hire.
48 (2) Review of the hiring process, including offer acceptance rate.
49 (3) Any other matter relevant to ways to reduce any inefficiency or delay in the
50 OSHR's recruitment and hiring process.

1 **SECTION 27.3.(b)** The OSHR shall provide any information and data requested by
2 the Committee for purposes of conducting the study. Not later than February 1, 2024, the
3 Committee shall submit a report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations
4 for legislation, to the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information
5 Technology, the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on General Government,
6 and the Fiscal Research Division.

7
8 **PART XXVIII. GOVERNOR [RESERVED]**

9
10 **PART XXIX. HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY**

11
12 **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

13 **SECTION 29.1.(a)** Sub-subdivision e. of subdivision (7) of Section 3 of S.L.
14 2017-119 is repealed.

15 **SECTION 29.1.(b)** G.S. 122A-16 reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 122A-16. Oversight by committees of General Assembly; annual reports; report; audit;**
17 **construction of Chapter.**

18 (a) Oversight. – The Finance Committee of the House of Representatives and
19 Representatives, the Finance Committee of the Senate, and the Joint Legislative Oversight
20 Committee on General Government shall exercise continuing oversight of the Agency in order
21 to assure that the Agency is effectively fulfilling its statutory purpose; provided, however, that
22 nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as required by the Agency to receive legislative
23 approval for the exercise of any of the powers granted by this Chapter purpose.

24 (b) Comprehensive Report. – The Agency shall, promptly following the close of each
25 fiscal year, on or before February 15 of each year, submit an annual comprehensive report of its
26 activities for the preceding year to the Governor, the Office of State Budget and Management,
27 State Auditor, the aforementioned committees of the General Assembly and the Local
28 Government Commission. Each such Commission, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
29 on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division. The comprehensive report required
30 under this subsection shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement of the Agency
31 during such year include at least all of the following:

32 (1) The goals and objectives of each program administered by the Agency.

33 (2) The number and types of activities funded by the Agency.

34 (3) The number of individuals or families served for each program administered
35 by the Agency.

36 (4) The information required under G.S. 45-104, 122A-5.15, and Section 20.1 of
37 S.L. 2005-276.

38 (c) Audit. – The Agency shall cause an audit of its books and accounts to be made at least
39 once in each year by an independent certified public accountant and the cost thereof may be paid
40 from any available moneys of the Agency. The Agency shall on January 1 and July 1 of each
41 year submit a written report of its activities to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
42 Operations. The Agency shall also at the end of each fiscal year submit a written report of its
43 budget expenditures by line item to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
44 Operations.

45 (d) Construction. – Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the Agency to
46 receive legislative approval for the exercise of any of the powers granted by this Chapter."

47 **SECTION 29.1.(c)** Section 20.1(a) of S.L. 2005-276 reads as rewritten:

48 **"SECTION 20.1.(a)** Funds appropriated in this act to the Housing Finance Agency for the
49 federal HOME Program shall be used to match federal funds appropriated for the HOME
50 Program. In allocating State funds appropriated to match federal HOME Program funds, the
51 Agency shall give priority to HOME Program projects, as follows:

- 1 (1) First priority to projects that are located in counties designated as Tier One,
 2 Tier Two, or Tier Three Enterprise Counties under G.S. 105-129.3; and
 3 (2) Second priority to projects that benefit persons and families whose incomes
 4 are fifty percent (50%) or less of the median family income for the local area,
 5 with adjustments for family size, according to the latest figures available from
 6 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

7 ~~The As part of the report required under G.S. 122A-16, the Housing Finance Agency shall~~
 8 ~~report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations by April 1 of each year~~
 9 ~~concerning on~~ the status of the HOME Program and shall include in the report information on
 10 priorities met, types of activities funded, and types of activities not funded."

11 **SECTION 29.1.(d)** G.S. 45-104(f) reads as rewritten:

12 "(f) ~~The As part of the report required under G.S. 122A-16, the Housing Finance Agency~~
 13 ~~shall report to the General Assembly describing on~~ the operation of the program established by
 14 this act ~~not later than May 1 of each year~~ until the funds are completely disbursed from the State
 15 Home Foreclosure Prevention Trust Fund. Information in the report shall be presented in
 16 aggregate form and may include the number of clients helped, the effectiveness of the funds in
 17 preventing home foreclosure, recommendations for further efforts needed to reduce foreclosures,
 18 and provide any other aggregated information the Housing Finance Agency determines is
 19 pertinent or that the General Assembly requests."

20 **SECTION 29.1.(e)** G.S. 122A-5.14(d) is repealed.

21 **SECTION 29.1.(f)** G.S. 122A-5.15(d) reads as rewritten:

22 "(d) ~~By February 1 of each year, the As part of the report required under G.S. 122A-16,~~
 23 ~~the Agency shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and~~
 24 ~~the Fiscal Research Division on~~ the number of loans made under this section, the amount of each
 25 loan, and whether the low-income housing development is located in a low-, moderate-, or
 26 high-income county, as designated by the Agency."

27 **SECTION 29.1.(g)** Subsections (b) and (c) of G.S. 122A-16, as amended by
 28 subsection (b) of this section, and subsections (c), (d), and (f) of this section become effective
 29 July 1, 2023, and apply to reports due on or after that date. The remainder of this section becomes
 30 effective July 1, 2023.

31 **HFA/INCREASE PROJECT CAPS FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM**

32 **SECTION 29.2.** G.S. 122A-5.15(c) reads as rewritten:

33 "(c) A taxpayer allocated a federal low-income housing tax credit under section 42 of the
 34 Code to construct or substantially rehabilitate a qualified North Carolina low-income housing
 35 development is eligible for a loan under the Workforce Housing Loan Program if the taxpayer
 36 satisfies the loan criteria established by the Agency. The loan criteria shall support the financing
 37 of similar types of developments as provided in G.S. 105-129.42 and shall be developed in
 38 partnership with developers of low-income housing in the State who receive a federal
 39 low-income housing tax credit under section 42 of the Code. The Agency shall take into
 40 consideration all eligible sources of funding for each development project, including whether
 41 there are other eligible sources of funding available for the development project. No loan made
 42 to a taxpayer under this section shall exceed ~~two three million dollars (\$2,000,000) (\$3,000,000)~~
 43 if the low-income housing development is located in a low-income county, as designated by the
 44 Agency; ~~one million five hundred two million dollars (\$1,500,000) (\$2,000,000)~~
 45 in a moderate-income county, as designated by the Agency; and ~~two hundred fifty five hundred~~
 46 ~~thousand dollars (\$250,000) (\$500,000)~~ in a high-income county, as designated by the Agency."

47 **HFA/SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM/HOMELESS** 48 **VETERANS AND VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL** 49 **ASSAULT/HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

1 **SECTION 29.3.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Housing Finance
2 Agency, Supportive Housing Development Program, (hereinafter "Agency"), the sum of ten
3 million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal
4 biennium shall be used as follows:

- 5 (1) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for housing serving homeless veterans.
- 6 (2) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for housing serving victims of domestic
7 violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

8 **SECTION 29.3.(b)** Prior to disbursing the funds provided in subsection (a) of this
9 section, the Agency shall consult with the North Carolina Governor's Working Group about
10 housing serving homeless veterans and the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth
11 Involvement and the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission about housing serving
12 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking for the purpose of
13 determining the greatest housing needs of those respective populations and how the Program
14 funds can best be used to address those needs. Until all the funds provided in subsection (a) of
15 this section have been expended, the Agency shall include in the annual report required by
16 G.S. 122A-16 all of the following for the preceding fiscal year:

- 17 (1) The total number of loans made and the amount of each loan.
- 18 (2) The name of each loan recipient, by county.
- 19 (3) A description of the housing which will be financed, in whole or in part, with
20 the loan funds and the population to be served by the housing.

21 **PART XXIX-A. OFFICE OF STATE HUMAN RESOURCES**

22 **OSHR/HUMAN CAPITAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

23
24 **SECTION 29.1A.(a)** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Office of State
25 Human Resources (OSHR), the sum of five million six hundred thousand dollars (\$5,600,000)
26 in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be used to plan and design a system to
27 replace the currently used human capital resources management (HCM) components, such as
28 recruitment/applicant tracking, organizational management, and personnel management, under
29 the purview of OSHR. The replacement system shall not include the existing enterprise payroll,
30 accounting, and finance system operations and functions under the purview of the Office of State
31 Controller (Controller). OSHR shall consult with the State Chief Information Officer (State CIO)
32 and Controller in planning and designing the replacement system and shall obtain the prior
33 approval of the State CIO and Controller on the selection of final system functions and
34 information technology vendors.
35

36 **SECTION 29.1A.(b)** Beginning October 1, 2023, OSHR shall provide quarterly
37 reports to the Joint Legislative Committee on General Government on its progress in
38 implementing the provisions of this section and, upon the completion of the implementation,
39 shall provide a final report to the Committee.
40

41 **PART XXX. INSURANCE**

42 **REGULATORY FEE & INSURANCE REGULATORY FUND**

43 **SECTION 30.1.(a)** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 58-6-25(b), the
44 percentage rate to be used in calculating the insurance regulatory charge under G.S. 58-6-25(b)
45 is two percent (2%) for the 2024 calendar year and the 2025 calendar year.

46 **SECTION 30.1.(b)** G.S. 58-6-25 reads as rewritten:

47 **"§ 58-6-25. Insurance regulatory charge.**

48 ...
49
50 (b) Rates. – The rate of the charge for each taxable year shall be six and one-half percent
51 (6.5%). When the Department prepares its budget request for each upcoming fiscal year, the

1 Department shall propose a percentage rate of the charge levied in this section. The Governor
 2 shall submit that proposed rate to the General Assembly each fiscal year. It is the intent of the
 3 General Assembly ~~(i)~~ that the percentage rate not exceed the rate necessary to generate funds
 4 sufficient to defray the estimated cost of the operations of the Department for each upcoming
 5 fiscal year, including a reasonable margin for a reserve fund, and ~~(ii) that the amount of the~~
 6 ~~reserve not exceed one-third of the estimated cost of operating the Department for each upcoming~~
 7 ~~fiscal year. that shall be used to provide for unanticipated expenditures requiring a budget~~
 8 ~~adjustment as authorized by G.S. 143C-6-4.~~ In calculating the amount of the reserve, the General
 9 Assembly shall consider all relevant factors that may affect the cost of operating the Department
 10 or a possible unanticipated increase or decrease in North Carolina premiums or other charge
 11 revenue.

12 ...
 13 (d) Use of Proceeds. – The Insurance Regulatory Fund is created ~~in the State treasury,~~
 14 ~~under the control of the Office of State Budget and Management. The~~ as an interest-bearing
 15 special fund to which the proceeds of the charge levied in this section and all fees collected under
 16 Articles 69 through 71 of this Chapter and under Articles 9 and 9C of Chapter 143 of the General
 17 Statutes shall be credited to the Fund. The Fund shall be placed in an interest-bearing account
 18 and any interest or other income derived from the Fund shall be credited to the Fund. credited.
 19 Moneys in the Fund may be spent only pursuant to appropriation by the General Assembly
 20 Assembly, and in accordance with the line item budget enacted by the General Assembly. The
 21 the Fund is subject to the provisions of the State Budget Act, except that no unexpended surplus
 22 of the Fund shall revert to the General Fund. Act. All money credited to the Fund shall be used
 23 to reimburse the General Fund for the following:

24"

25
 26 **DOI/VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND**

27 **SECTION 30.2.(a)** G.S. 58-87-1 reads as rewritten:

28 "**§ 58-87-1. Volunteer Fire Department Fund.**

29 ...
 30 (a1) Grant Program. – An eligible fire department may apply to the Commissioner for a
 31 grant under this section. In awarding grants under this section, the Commissioner must, to the
 32 extent possible, select applicants from all parts of the State based upon need. The Commissioner
 33 must award the grants on May 15, or on the first business day after May 15 if May 15 falls on a
 34 weekend or a holiday, of each year subject to the following limitations:

35 (1) The size of a grant may not exceed ~~thirty~~ forty thousand dollars
 36 ~~(\$30,000).~~ (\$40,000).

37 ...
 38 (b) Eligible Fire Department. – A fire department is eligible for a grant under this section
 39 if it meets all of the conditions of this subsection. No fire department may be declared ineligible
 40 for a grant solely because it is classified as a municipal fire department. The required conditions
 41 are:

- 42 (1) Repealed by Session Laws 2016-78, s. 2.1(a), effective June 30, 2016.
- 43 (2) It consists entirely of volunteer members, with the exception that the unit may
 44 have paid members to fill the equivalent of ~~six~~ eight full-time paid positions.
- 45 (3) It has been certified by the Department of Insurance.

46"
 47 **SECTION 30.2.(b)** G.S. 58-87-1(a1), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section,
 48 expires June 30, 2025.

49 **SECTION 30.2.(c)** For the 2023-2024 fiscal year only, the Commissioner of
 50 Insurance shall reserve one million dollars (\$1,000,000) of the funds in the Volunteer Fire
 51 Department Fund to provide grants to eligible fire departments in the event of an emergency. For

1 purposes of this subsection, the term "emergency" has the same meaning as in
 2 G.S. 166A-19.3(6). Emergency reserve grants shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)
 3 and shall be used for purposes consistent with G.S. 58-87-1(a1)(3). Any unspent funds remaining
 4 in the emergency reserve on June 30 of each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall
 5 revert to the Volunteer Fire Department Fund. If an eligible fire department is awarded an
 6 emergency reserve grant and thereafter receives a monetary settlement from its insurance carrier
 7 for the same loss or damages for which the grant was awarded, the fire department shall
 8 reimburse the State for the amount of the grant.

9 **SECTION 30.2.(d)** Within 60 days after all grants have been awarded under this
 10 section, the Commissioner shall submit a written report to the Senate Appropriations Committee
 11 on General Government and Information Technology, the House of Representatives
 12 Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
 13 on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division which shall be posted on the
 14 Department of Insurance's website and shall contain all of the following:

- 15 (1) For grants under subsection (a) of this section:
 16 a. The total number of grants awarded.
 17 b. A list of the eligible fire departments that were awarded grants and the
 18 county in which each eligible fire department is located.
 19 c. The amount of the grant award to each eligible fire department.
 20 (2) For emergency reserve grants under subsection (c) of this section:
 21 a. The total number of grants awarded.
 22 b. A list of the eligible fire departments that were awarded grants and the
 23 county in which each eligible fire department is located.
 24 c. The amount of the grant award to each eligible fire department.
 25 d. A description of the emergency for which grant funds were awarded.
 26

27 **DOI/ADMINISTRATION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND FOR CERTAIN** 28 **SAFETY WORKERS**

29 **SECTION 30.3.(a)** G.S. 58-87-10 reads as rewritten:

30 **"§ 58-87-10. Workers' Compensation Fund for the benefit of certain safety workers.**

31 ...

32 (d) Administration. – ~~The State Fire and Rescue Commission, established under~~
 33 ~~G.S. 58-78-1, Department of Insurance shall administer the Workers' Compensation Fund and~~
 34 shall perform this duty by contracting with a third-party administrator. The contracting procedure
 35 is not subject to Article 3C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. The reasonable and necessary
 36 expenses incurred by the ~~Commission-Department~~ in administering the Fund shall be paid out of
 37 the Fund by the State Treasurer. The ~~Commission-Department~~ may adopt rules to implement this
 38 section. The ~~State Fire and Rescue Commission-Department~~ shall include both of the following
 39 in its contracts with the third-party administrator:

- 40 (1) All provisions of Section 2(d) of S.L. 2014-64 in all future contracts with its
 41 workers' compensation third party administrators.S.L. 2014-64.
 42 (2) A clause explicitly stating that no commissions of any kind may be paid to
 43 any agent, broker, or other person from the Fund.

44 (e) Revenue Source. – Revenue is credited to the Workers' Compensation Fund from a
 45 portion of the proceeds of the tax levied under G.S. 105-228.5(d)(3). In addition, every eligible
 46 unit and eligible entity that elects to participate shall pay into the Fund an amount set annually
 47 by the ~~State Fire and Rescue Commission-Commissioner of Insurance, in consultation with the~~
 48 State Fire and Rescue Commission, to ensure that the Fund will be able to meet its payment
 49 obligations under this section. The amount shall be set as an amount for each member of the
 50 roster of the eligible unit or for each employee or volunteer of an eligible entity, and the amount
 51 may vary based on whether an individual is a volunteer, a part-time employee, or a full-time

1 employee. The payment shall be made to the ~~State Fire and Rescue Commission~~ Department
2 or before July 1 of each year. The ~~Commission~~ Department shall remit the payments it receives
3 to the State Treasurer, who shall credit the payments to the Fund.

4 ...

5 (g) Allocation of Taxes. – ~~The study conducted under subsection (f) of this section shall~~
6 ~~be reviewed by the Office of State Budget and Management.~~ On or before March 1 of each year,
7 ~~the Office of State Budget and Management, in consultation with the~~ Department of ~~Insurance,~~
8 Insurance must notify the Secretary of Revenue of the amount required to meet the needs of the
9 Fund, as determined by the ~~study,~~ study conducted under subsection (f) of this section, for the
10 upcoming fiscal year. The Secretary of Revenue shall remit that amount, subject to the twenty
11 percent (20%) limitation in G.S. 105-228.5(d)(3), to the Fund.

12 (h) Reports. – The Department of Insurance shall, on a quarterly basis, report to the State
13 Fire and Rescue Commission on its activities conducted pursuant to this section."

14 **SECTION 30.3.(b)** G.S. 58-87-10(d)(2), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section,
15 applies to contracts with workers' compensation third-party administrators executed or renewed
16 on or after the date this section becomes law.

17 **SECTION 30.3.(c)** G.S. 58-78-5 reads as rewritten:

18 "**§ 58-78-5. State Fire and Rescue Commission – Powers and duties.**

19 (a) The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

20 ...

21 (16) To provide oversight for the workers' compensation benefits administered by
22 the Department of Insurance under G.S. 58-87-10, to create a Volunteer
23 Safety Workers' Compensation Board to assist it in performing this duty, and
24 to reimburse the members of the Commission's Volunteer Safety Workers'
25 Compensation Board in accordance with G.S. 138-5 for travel and subsistence
26 expenses incurred by them.

27"

29 **DOI/WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND EMS/RESCUE** 30 **WORKERS**

31 **SECTION 30.5.** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 58-87-10, for the
32 2023-2024 fiscal year and the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Commissioner of Insurance shall not
33 set an amount to be paid by every eligible unit and eligible entity, as those terms are defined in
34 G.S. 58-87-10(a), that elects to participate in the Workers' Compensation Fund created pursuant
35 to G.S. 58-87-10(b). For the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the 2024-2025 fiscal year, no eligible unit
36 or eligible entity shall be required to submit to the Commissioner of Insurance any payment to
37 participate in the Fund.

39 **VOLUNTEER RESCUE UNITS/EQUIPMENT & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

40 **SECTION 30.6.(a)** Grants Authorized. – Of the funds appropriated in this act to the
41 Department of Insurance, the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for
42 each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used by the Department to establish and
43 administer a grant program to provide grants to eligible standalone volunteer rescue units
44 (hereinafter "unit") for the purpose of purchasing equipment and making capital improvements.
45 Grants for equipment shall not be more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to each unit
46 in each fiscal year and not more than two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for capital
47 improvements in each fiscal year. Each grant applicant shall match an equipment grant with ten
48 percent (10%) of the grant amount in non-State funds and a capital improvement grant with five
49 percent (5%) of the grant amount in non-State funds. An applicant may apply for a grant under
50 this section in each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. Each applicant may be awarded
51 only one grant in each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. For purposes of this section,

1 the term "eligible standalone volunteer rescue unit" means a volunteer rescue unit under
2 G.S. 58-87-5(b) that is not combined with a rescue/EMS, EMS units that are volunteer fire
3 departments that are a part of a county's EMS system plan, EMS units providing rescue or rescue
4 and emergency medical services, or any other unit of any type providing rescue and/or emergency
5 services.

6 **SECTION 30.6.(b)** In awarding grants under this section, the Department shall, to
7 the extent possible, select applicants from all parts of the State. Grants shall be made as soon as
8 practicable. If, in any fiscal year, the Department has not disbursed all of the grant funds
9 appropriated for the grant program as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the Department
10 shall allow applicants who have not received grant funds in that fiscal year to apply for a grant,
11 and the applicant shall match the grant funds as provided in subsection (a) of this section. Grants
12 authorized by this section shall be awarded in addition to and shall not supplant any amount of
13 the grant awarded to an eligible standalone volunteer rescue unit under G.S. 58-87-5. Any funds
14 appropriated for the grant program authorized by subsection (a) of this section that are
15 unencumbered at the end of each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall not revert to
16 the Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund but shall remain available for providing grants as authorized
17 by this section.

18 **SECTION 30.6.(c)** Report. – Within 60 days after all grants have been awarded
19 under subsection (a) of this section, the Department shall submit a written report to the Senate
20 Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, the House of
21 Representatives Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative
22 Oversight Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division which shall
23 include all of the following:

- 24 (1) The total number of grants awarded, by county.
- 25 (2) The name of each eligible standalone volunteer rescue unit to which a grant
26 was awarded, by county and by city, if applicable.
- 27 (3) The amount of the grant awarded to each eligible standalone volunteer rescue unit.

29 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS/APPARATUS TIRE REPLACEMENT

30 **SECTION 30.7.(a)** Grants Authorized. – Of the funds appropriated in this act to the
31 Department of Insurance, the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for
32 each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used by the Department to establish
33 and administer a grant program to provide grants in an amount of not more than ten thousand
34 dollars (\$10,000) to eligible fire departments under G.S. 58-87-1(b) for the purpose of replacing
35 fire apparatus tires. Grants shall be awarded only to applicants who certify in writing the need to
36 remove fire apparatus tires from service because of any of the following reasons: (i) tread wear
37 beyond the minimum tread depth, (ii) fire conditions that caused damage to the tires, such as
38 coming into contact with fire retardant and/or running over glass, debris, oil, or chemicals, (iii)
39 tire damage, such as cuts, bulges, and cracks, and (iv) evidence of dry rot or sidewall cracking.
40 Applicants shall use the grant funds only for the purpose of replacing fire apparatus tires and
41 shall not use the funds for any other purpose. Applicants are not required to provide a match for
42 grant funds. An applicant may apply for a grant under this section in each fiscal year of the
43 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. Each applicant may be awarded only one grant in each fiscal year of
44 the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

45 **SECTION 30.7.(b)** In awarding grants under this section, the Department shall, to
46 the extent possible, select applicants from all parts of the State. Grants shall be made as soon as
47 practicable. If, in any fiscal year, the Department has not disbursed all the grant funds
48 appropriated for the grant program authorized by subsection (a) of this section, the Department
49 shall allow applicants who have not received grant funds in that fiscal year to apply for a grant.
50 Grants authorized by this section shall be awarded in addition to and shall not supplant any
51 amount of the grant awarded to an eligible fire department under G.S. 58-87-1. Any funds

1 appropriated for the grant program authorized by subsection (a) of this section that are
2 unencumbered at the end of each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall not revert to
3 the Volunteer Fire Department Fund but shall remain available for providing grants as authorized
4 by this section.

5 **SECTION 30.7.(c)** Report. – Within 60 days after all grants have been awarded
6 under subsection (a) of this section, the Department shall submit a written report to the Senate
7 Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, the House of
8 Representatives Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative
9 Oversight Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division which shall
10 include all of the following:

- 11 (1) The total number of grants awarded, by county.
- 12 (2) The name of each eligible fire department to which a grant was awarded, by
13 county and by city, if applicable.
- 14 (3) The amount of the grant awarded to each eligible fire department.

15 16 **OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL ESTABLISHED**

17 **SECTION 30.8.(a)** Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
18 Article to read:

19 "Article 78A.

20 "Office of the State Fire Marshal.

21 **"§ 58-78A-1. Office of the State Fire Marshal.**

22 (a) The Office of the State Fire Marshal is created within the Department of Insurance
23 and that office may exercise its prescribed duties independently of the Department. The
24 Commissioner shall provide general administrative support to the Office of the State Fire
25 Marshal.

26 (b) The "State Fire Marshal," as used in this Article and elsewhere in the General Statutes,
27 shall be the head of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and shall be a person appointed by the
28 Commissioner by and with the consent of the Senate. The State Fire Marshal shall be a person
29 other than the Commissioner and shall serve a three-year term. If a vacancy arises or exists
30 pursuant to this subsection when the General Assembly is not in session, the Commissioner may
31 appoint a State Fire Marshal to serve on an interim basis pending confirmation by the Senate. For
32 the purposes of this subsection, the General Assembly is not in session only (i) prior to convening
33 of the Regular Session, (ii) during any adjournment of the Regular Session for more than 10 days,
34 and (iii) after sine die adjournment of the Regular Session."

35 **SECTION 30.8.(b)** G.S. 58-80-1 reads as rewritten:

36 **"§ 58-80-1. Purpose of Article; meaning of "State Fire Marshal".**

37 The purpose of this Article shall be the creation of a State Volunteer Fire Department to
38 provide protection for property lying outside the boundaries of municipalities, and to render
39 assistance anywhere within the State of North Carolina, in municipalities or counties, in
40 emergencies caused by fire, floods, tornadoes, or otherwise, in the manner and subject to the
41 conditions provided in this Article. ~~As used in this Article and elsewhere in the General Statutes,~~
42 ~~"State Fire Marshal" means the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Carolina."~~

43 **SECTION 30.8.(c)** G.S. 14-410(c)(3) reads as rewritten:

44 "(3) State Fire Marshal. – Defined in ~~G.S. 58-80-1~~ G.S. 58-78A-1."

45 **SECTION 30.8.(d)** Notwithstanding G.S. 58-78A-1, as enacted by subsection (a) of
46 this section, the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance shall serve as the State Fire
47 Marshal until the Senate confirms an independent State Fire Marshal as authorized by this
48 section.

49 **SECTION 30.8.(e)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2024.

50 51 **PART XXXI. INSURANCE – INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION**

LIMIT TORT LIABILITY FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

SECTION 31.1.(a) G.S. 143-291 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e) This Article provides the sole and exclusive remedy for any claim that arises as a result of the negligence of any officer, employee, involuntary servant, or agent of the State while acting within the scope of his office, employment, service, agency, or authority, and the North Carolina Industrial Commission is the sole and exclusive forum for hearing any such claims. Any other civil action or proceeding for money damages in any other forum arising out of or relating to the same subject matter against the officer, employee, involuntary servant, or agent of the State is precluded."

SECTION 31.1.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to all claims, civil actions, and proceedings filed or pending on or after that date.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION/BASE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

SECTION 31.2.(a) The Office of State Budget and Management shall, in conjunction with the North Carolina Industrial Commission, adjust the Commission's base budget for each fiscal year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to use proceeds from the insurance regulatory charge established under G.S. 58-6-25 to reimburse the General Fund for operations of the Commission as authorized by G.S. 58-6-25(d)(11).

SECTION 31.2.(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 58-6-25 or any other provision of law, the Department of Insurance shall not reimburse the General Fund for the appropriation made in this act for the purpose of compensating persons erroneously convicted of felonies as authorized by Article 8 of Chapter 148 of the General Statutes.

PART XXXII. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR [RESERVED]**PART XXXIII. MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS****VETERANS HOME TRUST FUND/TRANSFER TO VETERANS CEMETERY TRUST FUND**

SECTION 33.1. G.S. 143B-1293 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-1293. **North Carolina Veterans Home Trust Fund.**

...

(d) Miscellaneous. – The following provisions apply to the trust fund created in subsection (a) of this section:

...

(1a) ~~The~~ Of the funds deposited in the trust fund each fiscal year, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall transfer ten percent (10%) of the unspent receipts collected in each those funds that are unspent on June 30 of each fiscal year from the trust fund to the North Carolina Veterans Cemeteries Trust Fund on or before June 30 of each fiscal year.

...."

VETERANS HOME TRUST FUND/ROUTINE REPAIRS TO STATE VETERANS HOMES

SECTION 33.2. Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Department shall reserve the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) to be used to make routine repairs and renovations to buildings and facilities at State veteran homes. Funds held in reserve as required by this section shall not be used for "unforeseen circumstances," as that term is defined in

1 G.S. 143C-6-4(b)(3). Funds for unforeseen circumstances shall be spent only as authorized by
 2 G.S. 143C-6-4.

4 VETERANS LIFE CENTER CHALLENGE GRANT

5 SECTION 33.3. Part 1 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is
 6 amended by adding a new section to read:

7 **"§ 143B-1218. Veterans Life Center; challenge grant to provide rehabilitation and**
 8 **reintegration services to veterans.**

9 (a) There is hereby established in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs a
 10 challenge grant program for the Veterans Life Center (hereinafter "Center"), a nonprofit
 11 corporation, which shall be administered by the Department as provided in this section. Funds
 12 appropriated by the General Assembly for the challenge grant program shall be used to allocate
 13 funds to the Center for the purpose of providing rehabilitation and reintegration services and
 14 support to veterans across the State, and those funds shall not be used for any other purpose
 15 without the express authorization of the General Assembly.

16 (b) To receive State funds under this section, the Center shall raise at least seven hundred
 17 fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) in non-State funds in each fiscal year. The Center shall
 18 demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Department, that it has raised the funds required by this
 19 subsection prior to the allocation of State funds. The Department shall disburse State funds on a
 20 dollar-for-dollar basis each quarter so that the Center will receive a State dollar for each non-State
 21 dollar raised by the Center, but in no case shall the Department disburse State funds to the Center
 22 if it has not raised the required non-State funds. The Center shall not supplant, shift, or reallocate
 23 Center funds for the purpose of achieving the non-State dollar amount of seven hundred fifty
 24 thousand dollars (\$750,000) required by this subsection.

25 (c) Not later than July 1 of each year, the Department shall submit a written report to the
 26 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government and the Fiscal Research Division
 27 on all of the following information, and the Center shall provide the information to the
 28 Department in the manner and time period requested by the Department for purposes of preparing
 29 the report:

- 30 (1) The total number of veterans served.
 31 (2) The types of services provided to veterans, and the number of veterans who
 32 received each type of service.
 33 (3) Demographics of the veterans served, including each veteran's county of
 34 residence.
 35 (4) Average length of stay for veterans, and the average number of veterans in the
 36 Center facility on a daily basis.
 37 (5) The total number of veterans who completed the care program, and the
 38 number who received postgraduate mentoring from the Center."

40 DMVA/CHILDREN OF VETERANS' SCHOLARSHIPS

41 SECTION 33.4.(a) G.S. 143B-1225 reads as rewritten:

42 **"§ 143B-1225. Scholarship.**

43 (a) A scholarship granted pursuant to this Part shall consist of the following benefits in
 44 either a State or private educational institution:

- 45 ...
 46 (6) A student who has been awarded a scholarship under this section shall
 47 maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 throughout the four
 48 academic years for which the student is eligible for a scholarship under this
 49 section.

50"

51 SECTION 33.4.(b) G.S. 143B-1227 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 143B-1227. Administration and funding.**

2 (a) The administration of the scholarship program shall be vested in the Department of
3 Military and Veterans Affairs, and the disbursing and accounting activities required shall be a
4 responsibility of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Veterans' Affairs
5 Commission shall determine the eligibility of applicants, select the scholarship recipients,
6 establish the effective date of scholarships, and may suspend or revoke scholarships if the
7 Veterans' Affairs Commission finds that the recipient does not comply with the registration
8 requirements of the Selective Service System or does not maintain an adequate academic status,
9 or if the recipient engages in riots, unlawful demonstrations, the seizure of educational buildings,
10 or otherwise engages in disorderly conduct, breaches of the peace or unlawful assemblies. The
11 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall maintain the primary and necessary records,
12 and the Veterans' Affairs Commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations not
13 inconsistent with the other provisions of this Part as it deems necessary for the orderly
14 administration of the program. It may require of State or private educational institutions, as
15 defined in this Part, such reports and other information as it may need to carry out the provisions
16 of this ~~Part~~. Part; provided, however, the Veterans' Affairs Commission shall require State and
17 private educational institutions to report no later than December 15 of each year the number of
18 scholarship recipients who maintained a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and the number
19 of scholarship recipients who completed the degree requirements for graduation. The Department
20 of Military and Veterans Affairs shall disburse scholarship payments for recipients certified
21 eligible by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs upon certification of enrollment by
22 the enrolling institution.

23"

24 **SECTION 33.4.(c)** G.S. 143B-1228 reads as rewritten:

25 **"§ 143B-1228. Report on scholarships.**

26 By January 1 of each year, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall report to
27 the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, the Senate Appropriations
28 Committee on General Government and Information Technology, the House of Representatives
29 Appropriations Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division the
30 following data on the Scholarships for Children of Wartime Veterans program:

31 ...

32 (2) Number of scholarships awarded in each of the past five fiscal years and sorted
33 by:

34 ...

35 j. Number of scholarship recipients who maintained a cumulative grade
36 point average of 2.0."

37
38 **SANDHILLS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY**

39 **SECTION 33.6.** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Military
40 and Veterans Affairs for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of three hundred thousand dollars
41 (\$300,000) in nonrecurring funds shall be used to contract with one or more persons or businesses
42 to improve the appearance of Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery and to perform all the services
43 and activities, including, but not limited to, grounds maintenance, equipment maintenance, and
44 headstone marker operations, required to bring Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery into
45 compliance with the operational standards promulgated by the National Cemetery
46 Administration in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Not later than November 30, 2023,
47 the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General
48 Government, the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on General Government,
49 and the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology
50 on the following:

- 1 (1) The names of the persons or businesses with whom the Department contracted
- 2 to provide the services and activities required by this section.
- 3 (2) The services and activities performed by each person or business and the
- 4 amount paid to each person or business pursuant to the contract.
- 5

6 **DMVA UPDATE AND PUBLISH RESOURCE GUIDE**

7 **SECTION 33.7.** Notwithstanding any provision of S.L. 2021-180 or the Committee
8 Report described in Section 43.2 of that act to the contrary, the sum of fifty thousand dollars
9 (\$50,000) in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium appropriated to
10 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall be used to publish a new Department of
11 Military and Veterans Affairs Resource Guide (for veterans, active military, and their families)
12 no later than June 30, 2023.

13 **DMVA FILL VETERAN SERVICES OFFICER POSITIONS**

14 **SECTION 33.8.** The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall fill all
15 Veteran Services Officer (VSO) positions that are vacant on the date this act becomes law. The
16 Department shall not, in the 2023-2024 fiscal year or the 2024-2025 fiscal year, use lapsed
17 salaries resulting from vacant VSO positions to hire temporary employees. If the Department
18 does not fill the vacant VSO positions in the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the funds appropriated
19 for the position or positions shall revert to the General Fund on June 30 of each fiscal year.

20 **DMVA FILL INTERNAL AUDITOR AND PROGRAM ANALYST POSITIONS**

21 **SECTION 33.9.** In collaboration with the Office of State Budget and Management,
22 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall make every effort to fill the Program
23 Analyst and Internal Auditor positions authorized by Section 23.5 and Section 23.6 of S.L.
24 2021-180. If the Department does not fill either or both positions in the 2023-2025 fiscal
25 biennium, the Department shall not use the lapsed salaries resulting from the vacant position or
26 positions to hire temporary employees and the funds appropriated for the position or positions
27 shall revert to the General Fund on June 30 of each fiscal year.

28 **DMVA/REDUCE VETERAN HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSECURITY**

29 **SECTION 33.10.(a)** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 143B-1293, of the
30 funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department
31 shall use the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds in each year of the
32 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to establish and administer a grant program to address homelessness
33 and housing instability in the State's veteran population. In developing the criteria for
34 determining the eligibility of applicants for grants and the amount of the grants, the Department
35 shall regularly consult with the North Carolina Governor's Working Group (on service members,
36 veterans, and their families) (hereinafter "NCGWG") and OPERATION: HOME Task Force
37 (hereinafter "OHTF"); provided, however, all of the following shall apply to the grant program:

- 38 (1) Grant funds shall be awarded only to existing community-based programs
- 39 with a proven track record of providing direct services to veterans to help
- 40 reduce homelessness and housing instability among the State's veteran
- 41 population. Priority shall be given to programs that, in addition to providing
- 42 direct housing services to veterans, also provide other supportive services that
- 43 aid veterans in moving into stable or permanent housing, such as education,
- 44 workforce training, substance abuse treatment, and/or mental health
- 45 treatment.
- 46 (2) The Department shall work with NCGWG and OHTF to identify existing
- 47 community-based programs as described in subdivision (1) of this subsection
- 48 and to make those programs aware of the grant program established under this
- 49
- 50
- 51

1 section and the program's eligibility criteria. The Department shall also
2 include information about the grant program and program eligibility criteria
3 on its website.

4 (3) To the extent possible given the number and presence of existing
5 community-based programs across the State that meet the requirement
6 established in subdivision (1) of this subsection, grants shall be awarded to
7 existing community-based programs in each of the 13 regions in the State
8 included on the Balance of State Continuum of Care map created by the North
9 Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness.

10 (4) Grant amounts may vary depending upon the grantee's ability to provide direct
11 service to veterans. In determining a grantee's ability to provide direct
12 services, the Department, in consultation with NCGWG and OHTF, shall
13 consider the grantee's past performance in reducing homelessness and housing
14 instability in the State's veteran population and providing direct services to
15 veterans, managing grant funds, the number of staff employed by the grantee,
16 the number of volunteers engaged with the grantee, and staff/volunteer
17 experience in effectively managing grant funds.

18 (5) A grantee shall use no more than two percent (2%) of the grant funds awarded
19 for administrative expenses.

20 (6) The Department shall provide interim reports not later than December 1, 2023,
21 and March 1, 2024, and a final report not later than April 15, 2025, on the
22 implementation of the grant program to the Joint Legislative Oversight
23 Committee on General Government, the House Appropriations Committee on
24 General Government, and the Senate Appropriations Committee on General
25 Government and Information Technology which shall include all of the
26 following:

- 27 a. The criteria developed for determining the eligibility of applicants for
28 grants and the process used to evaluate and select grantees.
- 29 b. The total number of grants awarded, the amount of each grant, and the
30 justification used by the Department, in consultation with NCGWG
31 and OHTF, to determine the grant amount.
- 32 c. The name of each grantee and the region in which the grantee is
33 located.
- 34 d. The number of veterans served by the grantee and a description of the
35 services provided to those veterans, including any supportive services
36 offered in addition to housing.
- 37 e. For the April 15, 2025, report only, the number of veterans who sought
38 housing assistance from the grantee more than once within the prior
39 12 months and what, if any, actions were taken by the grantee to try to
40 mitigate the veterans' return to homelessness or housing instability.

41 **SECTION 33.10.(b)** The Department shall seek out and apply for grant funds that
42 can be used to provide services and support for the State's veterans experiencing homelessness
43 or housing insecurity, including the Homeless Provider Grant and Per Diem Program
44 administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Not later than February 1,
45 2024, and February 1 of each year thereafter, the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative
46 Oversight Committee on General Government, the House Appropriations Committee on General
47 Government, the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information
48 Technology, and the Fiscal Research Division on all of the following:

- 49 (1) The names of the grants applied for and a description of the eligibility criteria
50 for each grant. If the State does not currently meet eligibility criteria for a

1 grant, a description of what action, if any, the State can take to satisfy the
2 eligibility criteria for future applications.

3 (2) The names of any grants awarded to the State, the names of the grantors, and
4 the amounts of the grants.

5 (3) Any restrictions on the use of the grants awarded to the State.

6 (4) Recommendations for future legislation to effectively reduce homelessness
7 and housing instability in the State's veteran population.

9 HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED AND AGING 10 VETERANS

11 **SECTION 33.11.** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 143B-1293, of the funds
12 appropriated in this act to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the sum of three
13 million dollars (\$3,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal
14 biennium shall be allocated as a directed grant to Purple Heart Homes, Inc., a nonprofit
15 corporation, to provide personalized housing solutions for service-connected disabled and aging
16 veterans and their families across the State. The grant funds shall be distributed equally to the
17 Charlotte office, Piedmont Chapter, High Country Chapter, and North Wake Chapter. Each
18 office/chapter may use not more than two percent (2%) of the grant funds for administrative
19 costs. By September 1, 2024, Purple Heart Homes, Inc., shall provide a report to the Senate
20 Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, the House of
21 Representatives Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative
22 Oversight Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division on the use of
23 these funds, including the number of individuals or families served, the types of services provided
24 to those individuals or families, and the outcomes.

25 HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS

26 **SECTION 33.12.** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 143B-1293, of the funds
27 appropriated in this act to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the sum of one
28 million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in nonrecurring funds for each fiscal year of
29 the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be allocated as a directed grant to Military Missions In
30 Action (hereinafter "MMIA"), a nonprofit corporation, to provide support to veterans who need
31 construction project assistance due to disabilities or substandard living conditions and to
32 homeless veterans. MMIA shall not use more than two percent (2%) of the grant funds for
33 administrative costs. By September 1, 2024, MMIA shall provide a report to the Senate
34 Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, the House of
35 Representatives Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative
36 Oversight Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division on the use of
37 these funds, including the number of individuals or families served and the types of services
38 provided to those individuals or families.

39 PART XXXIV. REVENUE

40 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SYSTEMS PROJECTS UPDATE REPORT 41 CLARIFICATION

42 **SECTION 34.1.(a)** Section 8.1(b) of S.L. 2019-246, as enacted by Section 34.4 of
43 S.L. 2021-180 and amended by Section 5.6(d) of S.L. 2022-13, reads as rewritten:

44 **"SECTION 8.1.(b)** By January 1, 2022, and ~~monthly~~-quarterly thereafter, the Department
45 of Revenue shall submit a written report to the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee
46 on General Government and the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and
47 Information Technology and the Fiscal Research Division. The ~~monthly~~-quarterly report shall
48 include an update on the following:
49
50
51

- 1 (1) The status of the power of attorney registration project required by subsection
- 2 (a) of this section.
- 3 (2) The status of the Collections Case Management system implementation and
- 4 the IBM 4100 replacement project currently underway in the Department.
- 5 (3) The status of the Department's ability to make the programmatic changes
- 6 necessary to implement the graduated penalty for failure to pay tax when due
- 7 that will apply to tax assessed on or after July 1, 2024."

8 **SECTION 34.1.(b)** Section 34.1 of S.L. 2022-74 is repealed.

9
10 **ASSIGNMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS**

11 **SECTION 34.2.** G.S. 105-236.1 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 105-236.1. Enforcement of revenue laws by revenue law enforcement agents.**

13 (a) General. – The Secretary may appoint employees of the ~~Unauthorized Substances Tax~~
14 ~~Section of the Tax Enforcement Division Department~~ to serve as revenue law enforcement
15 officers having the responsibility and subject-matter jurisdiction to enforce the excise tax on
16 unauthorized substances imposed by Article 2D of this Chapter.

17 (a1) The Secretary may appoint up to 11 employees of the ~~Motor Fuels Investigations~~
18 ~~Section of the Tax Enforcement Division Department~~ to serve as revenue law enforcement
19 officers having the responsibility and subject-matter jurisdiction to enforce the taxes on motor
20 fuels imposed by Articles 36B, 36C, and 36D of this Chapter and by Chapter 119 of the General
21 Statutes.

22 (a2) The Secretary may appoint employees of the ~~Criminal Investigations Section of the~~
23 ~~Tax Enforcement Division Department~~ to serve as revenue law enforcement officers having the
24 responsibility and subject-matter jurisdiction to enforce the following tax violations and criminal
25 offenses:

26"

27
28 **DOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR COLLECTING PREPAID WIRELESS**
29 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE CHARGES**

30 **SECTION 34.3.** G.S. 143B-1414 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 143B-1414. Service charge for prepaid wireless telecommunications service; seller**
32 **collects 911 service charge on each retail transaction occurring in this State;**
33 **remittances to Department of Revenue and transfer to 911 Fund.**

34 ...

35 (c) Administration. – Administration, auditing, requests for review, making returns,
36 collection of tax debts, promulgation of rules and regulations by the Secretary of Revenue,
37 additional taxes and liens, assessments, refunds, and penalty provisions of Article 9 of Chapter
38 105 of the General Statutes apply to the collection of the 911 service charge for prepaid wireless
39 telecommunications service. An audit of the collection of the 911 service charge for prepaid
40 wireless telecommunications service shall only be conducted in connection with an audit of the
41 taxes imposed by Article 5 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes. Underpayments shall be
42 subject to the same interest rate as imposed for taxes under G.S. 105-241.21. Overpayments shall
43 be subject to the same interest rate as imposed for taxes under G.S. 105-241.21(c)(2). Excessive
44 and erroneous collections of the service charge will be subject to G.S. 105-164.11. The
45 Department of Revenue shall establish procedures for a seller of prepaid wireless
46 telecommunications service to document that a sale is not a retail transaction, and the procedures
47 established shall substantially coincide with the procedures for documenting a sale for resale
48 transaction under G.S. 105-164.28. The Secretary of Revenue may retain the costs of collection
49 from the remittances received under subsection (b) of this section, ~~not to exceed five hundred~~
50 ~~thousand dollars (\$500,000) in the amount of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) a~~
51 year of the total 911 service charges for prepaid wireless telecommunications service remitted to

1 the Department. The amount allowed to the Department for costs under this section shall be
2 increased (i) each fiscal year by a percentage equal to any legislative salary increase awarded to
3 State-funded employees and (ii) by any adjustment in salary reserve funds that impacts
4 employees funded by the 911 Service Charge. Within 45 days of the end of each month in which
5 911 service charges for prepaid wireless telecommunications service are remitted to the
6 Department, the Secretary of Revenue shall transfer the total 911 service charges remitted to the
7 Department less the costs of collection to the 911 Fund established under G.S. 143B-1404.

8"
9

10 TAX FRAUD ANALYTICS

11 **SECTION 34.4.** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Revenue,
12 the sum of four million four hundred thousand dollars (\$4,400,000) in recurring funds for each
13 fiscal year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium shall be used to continue and expand the
14 Department's tax fraud analysis contract through the Government Data Analytics Center
15 (GDAC). These funds shall be used in each fiscal year to fund detection analytics, information
16 reporting, collections case management, collections optimization, managed services, and
17 technical infrastructure. The Department of Revenue shall continue to coordinate with the GDAC
18 and utilize the subject matter expertise and technical infrastructure available through existing
19 GDAC public-private partnerships for fraud detection and analytics infrastructure.
20

21 REV/SCRAP TIRE DISPOSAL TAX-USE OF PROCEEDS

22 **SECTION 34.5.** G.S. 105-187.19(a) reads as rewritten:

23 "(a) The Secretary shall distribute the taxes collected under this Article, less the allowance
24 to the Department of Revenue for administrative expenses, in accordance with this section. The
25 Secretary may retain the cost of collection by the Department, ~~not to exceed in the amount of~~
26 four hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$425,000) a year, as reimbursement to the
27 Department. The amount allowed to the Department for costs under this section shall be increased
28 (i) each fiscal year by a percentage equal to any legislative salary increase awarded to
29 State-funded employees and (ii) by any adjustment in salary reserve funds that impacts
30 employees funded by the Scrap Tire Disposal Tax."
31

32 REV/WHITE GOODS DISPOSAL TAX-USE OF PROCEEDS

33 **SECTION 34.6.** G.S. 105-187.24 reads as rewritten:

34 "**§ 105-187.24. Use of tax proceeds.**

35 The Secretary shall distribute the taxes collected under this Article, less the Department of
36 Revenue's allowance for administrative expenses, in accordance with this section. The Secretary
37 may retain the Department's cost of collection, ~~not to exceed in the amount of~~ four hundred
38 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$425,000) a year, as reimbursement to the Department. The amount
39 allowed to the Department for costs under this section shall be increased (i) each fiscal year by a
40 percentage equal to any legislative salary increase awarded to State-funded employees and (ii)
41 by any adjustment in salary reserve funds that impacts employees funded by the White Goods
42 Disposal Tax.

43 Each quarter, the Secretary shall credit twenty-eight percent (28%) of the net tax proceeds to
44 the General Fund. The Secretary shall distribute the remaining seventy-two percent (72%) of the
45 net tax proceeds among the counties on a per capita basis according to the most recent annual
46 population estimates certified to the Secretary by the State Budget Officer. The Department shall
47 not distribute the tax proceeds to a county when notified not to do so by the Department of
48 Environmental Quality under G.S. 130A-309.87. If a county is not entitled to a distribution, the
49 proceeds allocated for that county will be credited to the White Goods Management Account.

50 A county may use funds distributed to it under this section only as provided in
51 G.S. 130A-309.82. A county that receives funds under this section and that has an interlocal

1 agreement with another unit of local government under which the other unit provides for the
2 disposal of solid waste for the county must transfer the amount received under this section to that
3 other unit. A unit to which funds are transferred is subject to the same restrictions on use of the
4 funds as the county."
5

6 **REV/SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TAX-USE OF PROCEEDS**

7 **SECTION 34.7.** G.S. 105-187.63 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 105-187.63. Use of tax proceeds.**

9 From the taxes received pursuant to this Article, the Secretary may retain the costs of
10 collection, ~~not to exceed in the amount of two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000)~~
11 a year, as reimbursement to the Department. The amount allowed to the Department for costs
12 under this section shall be increased (i) each fiscal year by a percentage equal to any legislative
13 salary increase awarded to State-funded employees and (ii) by any adjustment in salary reserve
14 funds that impacts employees funded by the Solid Waste Disposal Tax. The Secretary must credit
15 or distribute taxes received pursuant to this Article, less the cost of collection, on a quarterly basis
16 as follows:

- 17 (1) Fifty percent (50%) to the Inactive Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund established
18 by G.S. 130A-310.11.
- 19 (2) Thirty-seven and one-half percent (37.5%) to cities and counties in the State
20 on a per capita basis, using the most recent annual estimate of population
21 certified by the State Budget Officer. One-half of this amount must be
22 distributed to cities, and one-half of this amount must be distributed to
23 counties. For purposes of this distribution, the population of a county does not
24 include the population of a city located in the county.

25 A city or county is excluded from the distribution under this subdivision
26 if it does not provide solid waste management programs and services and is
27 not responsible by contract for payment for these programs and services. The
28 Department of Environmental Quality must provide the Secretary with a list
29 of the cities and counties that are excluded under this subdivision. The list
30 must be provided by May 15 of each year and applies to distributions made in
31 the fiscal year that begins on July 1 of that year.

32 Funds distributed under this subdivision must be used by a city or county
33 solely for solid waste management programs and services.

- 34 (3) Twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) to the General Fund."
35

36 **PART XXXV. SECRETARY OF STATE**

37 **INCREASE FEES FOR LOBBYISTS AND LOBBYIST PRINCIPALS**

38 **SECTION 35.1.(a)** G.S. 120C-201 reads as rewritten:

39 **"§ 120C-201. Lobbyist's registration fee.**

40 A fee of ~~two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00)~~ five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is due and payable
41 to the Secretary of State at the time of each lobbyist registration. Fees so collected shall be
42 deposited in the General Fund of the State. The fees required under this section shall be paid
43 electronically."
44

45 **SECTION 35.1.(b)** G.S. 120C-207 reads as rewritten:

46 **"§ 120C-207. Lobbyist principal's fees.**

47 A fee of ~~two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00)~~ five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is due and payable
48 to the Secretary of State at the time the principal's first authorization statement is filed each
49 calendar year for a lobbyist. Fees so collected shall be deposited in the General Fund of the State.
50 The fees required under this section shall be paid electronically."
51

PART XXXVI. TREASURER**PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES' DEATH BENEFITS**

SECTION 36.1.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of Article 12A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, when any law enforcement officer is murdered by use of a firearm while off duty but en route to perform his or her official duties, the surviving spouse of the law enforcement officer or, if there is no surviving spouse, the surviving dependent children of the law enforcement officer shall be awarded the death benefits authorized by G.S. 143-166.3(a) and G.S. 143-166.3(e).

SECTION 36.1.(b) This section is effective retroactive to October 12, 2022, and applies only to incidents described in subsection (a) of this section that occurred on or after October 12, 2022, and before October 31, 2022.

TREASURER TO DESIGNATE LEGAL COUNSEL FOR ADMINISTRATION OF BENEFIT PROGRAMS

SECTION 36.2. G.S. 135-6 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(u) Notwithstanding G.S. 114-2.3 and G.S. 147-17, the Treasurer may designate legal counsel, including private counsel, to represent the interests of the administration of benefit programs under this Chapter."

BOND REFERENDUM TRANSPARENCY

SECTION 36.3.(a) G.S. 159-61(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) The form of the question as stated on the ballot shall be in substantially the following words:

"~~Shall~~ Additional property taxes may be levied on property located in (name of unit of local government) in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on bonds if approved by the following ballot question. Shall the order authorizing \$ _____ bonds plus interest for (briefly stating the purpose) and providing that additional taxes may be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds be approved?

[] YES

[] NO""

SECTION 36.3.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to bond referendums conducted on or after that date.

PART XXXVII. [RESERVED]**PART XXXVIII. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY****INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERNAL SERVICE FUND**

SECTION 38.1A. The Department of Information Technology shall include in the rates submitted pursuant to G.S. 143B-1333 an additional amount not exceeding three million five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$3,550,000) for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to be charged to agencies for the Security Operations Center and Privacy Office Support. The rates shall not include and agencies shall not be charged the one million one hundred twenty-six thousand dollars (\$1,126,000) requested for other positions within the Department.

PART XXXIX. SALARIES AND BENEFITS**ELIGIBLE STATE-FUNDED EMPLOYEES AWARDED LEGISLATIVE SALARY INCREASES/EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023, AND JULY 1, 2024**

1 **SECTION 39.1.(a)** Effective July 1, 2023, except as provided by subsection (b) of
2 this section, a person (i) whose salary is set by this Part, pursuant to the North Carolina Human
3 Resources Act, or as otherwise authorized in this act, and (ii) who is employed in a State-funded
4 position on June 30, 2023, is awarded:

- 5 (1) A legislative salary increase in the amount of two and fifty-hundredths percent
6 (2.50%) of annual salary in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
- 7 (2) Any salary adjustment otherwise allowed or provided by law.

8 **SECTION 39.1.(a1)** Effective July 1, 2024, except as provided by subsection (b) of
9 this section, a person (i) whose salary is set by this Part, pursuant to the North Carolina Human
10 Resources Act, or as otherwise authorized in this act, and (ii) who is employed in a State-funded
11 position on June 30, 2024, is awarded:

- 12 (1) A legislative salary increase in the amount of two and fifty-hundredths percent
13 (2.50%) of annual salary in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- 14 (2) Any salary adjustment otherwise allowed or provided by law.

15 **SECTION 39.1.(b)** For the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the following persons are
16 not eligible to receive the legislative salary increases provided by subsections (a) and (a1) of this
17 section:

- 18 (1) Employees of local boards of education.
- 19 (2) Local community college employees.
- 20 (3) Employees of The University of North Carolina.
- 21 (4) Clerks of superior court compensated under G.S. 7A-101.
- 22 (5) Officers and employees to which the annual salary schedules in Section 39.15,
23 Section 39.16, or Section 39.18 of this act apply.
- 24 (6) Employees of schools operated by the Department of Health and Human
25 Services, the Department of Public Safety, and the State Board of Education
26 who are paid based on the Teacher Salary Schedule.

27 **SECTION 39.1.(c)** Part-time employees shall receive the increases authorized by
28 this section on a prorated and equitable basis.

29 **SECTION 39.1.(d)** No eligible State-funded employee shall be prohibited from
30 receiving the full salary increases provided in this section solely because the employee's salary
31 after applying the legislative increase is above the maximum of the salary range prescribed by
32 the State Human Resources Commission.

33 **LABOR MARKET ADJUSTMENT RESERVE**

34 **SECTION 39.2.(a)** Of the Labor Market Adjustment Salary Reserve funds
35 appropriated in this act, agencies shall award salary adjustments to identified employees pursuant
36 to the following requirements:
37

- 38 (1) Any increase provided to an employee shall not exceed the greater of fifteen
39 thousand dollars (\$15,000) or fifteen percent (15%) of their current base
40 salary.
- 41 (2) Any increase provided to an employee may not result in the employee's salary
42 exceeding the maximum salary of the salary range associated with the
43 position.
- 44 (3) No more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the agency's permanent employees
45 may receive a salary increase from the funds appropriated for this purpose.
- 46 (4) Funds may not be awarded to employees in positions with salaries set in law
47 or paid based on an experience-based salary schedule that is eligible to receive
48 funding from the Pay Plan Reserve.
- 49 (5) Funds must be used to increase salaries paid to employees and shall not be
50 used to supplant other funding sources or for any other purpose.

1 **SECTION 39.2.(b)** The provisions of subsection (a) of this section do not apply to
 2 the State Highway Patrol or the State Bureau of Investigation, and no allocations shall be made
 3 to those agencies for labor market adjustments.

4 **SECTION 39.2.(c)** The Director of the Budget may adjust a State agency's budgeted
 5 receipts to provide an equivalent two percent (2%) Labor Market Adjustment Salary Reserve for
 6 the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium subject to the requirements in subsection (a) of this section,
 7 provided that sufficient receipts are available. Agency receipts needed to implement this section
 8 are appropriated for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

9 **SECTION 39.2.(d)** The Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) shall compile a
 10 single report detailing how these funds were distributed by each agency. The OSHR shall develop
 11 a uniform reporting mechanism for agencies that display the salary increases made for each
 12 position classification, the average increase provided to employees in each position classification,
 13 and the market-based justification for the awarded salary increases. Agencies receiving Labor
 14 Market Adjustment Salary Reserve appropriations shall report to the OSHR by September 30,
 15 2023. By October 31, 2023, the OSHR shall submit the report containing the agency responses
 16 to the Fiscal Research Division.

17
 18 **GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF STATE**

19 **SECTION 39.4.(a)** Effective July 1, 2023, G.S. 147-11(a) reads as rewritten:

20 "(a) The salary of the Governor shall be ~~one hundred sixty five thousand seven hundred~~
 21 ~~forty dollars (\$165,750)~~ one hundred ninety-eight thousand one hundred twenty dollars
 22 (\$198,120) annually, payable monthly."

23 **SECTION 39.4.(a1)** Effective July 1, 2024, G.S. 147-11(a), as amended by
 24 subsection (a) of this section, reads as rewritten:

25 "(a) The salary of the Governor shall be ~~one hundred ninety eight thousand one hundred~~
 26 ~~twenty dollars (\$198,120)~~ two hundred three thousand seventy-three dollars (\$203,073) annually,
 27 payable monthly."

28 **SECTION 39.4.(b)** Effective July 1, 2023, the annual salaries for members of the
 29 Council of State, payable monthly, are set as follows:

Council of State	Annual Salary
Lieutenant Governor	\$157,403
Attorney General	157,403
Secretary of State	157,403
State Treasurer	157,403
State Auditor	157,403
Superintendent of Public Instruction	157,403
Agriculture Commissioner	157,403
Insurance Commissioner	157,403
Labor Commissioner	157,403

40 **SECTION 39.4.(b1)** Effective July 1, 2024, the annual salaries for members of the
 41 Council of State, payable monthly, are set as follows:

Council of State	Annual Salary
Lieutenant Governor	\$168,384
Attorney General	168,384
Secretary of State	168,384
State Treasurer	168,384
State Auditor	168,384
Superintendent of Public Instruction	168,384
Agriculture Commissioner	168,384
Insurance Commissioner	168,384
Labor Commissioner	168,384

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CERTAIN EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS

SECTION 39.5.(a) Effective July 1, 2023, the annual salaries, payable monthly, for the following executive branch officials for the 2023-2024 fiscal year are as follows:

Executive Branch Officials	Annual Salary
Chairman, Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission	\$134,770
State Controller	187,661
Commissioner of Banks	151,258
Chair, Board of Review, Division of Employment Security	148,368
Members, Board of Review, Division of Employment Security	146,555
Chairman, Parole Commission	148,368
Full-time Members of the Parole Commission	137,181
Chairman, Utilities Commission	168,185
Members of the Utilities Commission	151,258
Executive Director, North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority	131,245

SECTION 39.5.(b) Effective July 1, 2024, the annual salaries, payable monthly, for the following executive branch officials for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are as follows:

Executive Branch Officials	Annual Salary
Chairman, Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission	\$138,139
State Controller	192,353
Commissioner of Banks	155,039
Chair, Board of Review, Division of Employment Security	152,077
Members, Board of Review, Division of Employment Security	150,219
Chairman, Parole Commission	152,077
Full-time Members of the Parole Commission	140,611
Chairman, Utilities Commission	172,390
Members of the Utilities Commission	155,039
Executive Director, North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority	134,526

JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION 39.6.(a) Effective July 1, 2023, the annual salaries, payable monthly, for the following judicial branch officials for the 2023-2024 fiscal year are as follows:

Judicial Branch Officials	Annual Salary
Chief Justice, Supreme Court	\$198,120
Associate Justice, Supreme Court	192,978
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals	189,926
Judge, Court of Appeals	184,996
Judge, Senior Regular Resident Superior Court	170,000
Judge, Superior Court	165,000
Chief Judge, District Court	163,462
Judge, District Court	158,654
Chief Administrative Law Judge	138,493
District Attorney	150,851

1	Assistant Administrative Officer of the Courts	145,267
2	Public Defender	150,851
3	Director of Indigent Defense Services	155,476
4	SECTION 39.6.(a1) Effective July 1, 2024, the annual salaries, payable monthly,	
5	for the following judicial branch officials for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are as follows:	
6	Judicial Branch Officials	Annual Salary
7	Chief Justice, Supreme Court	\$203,073
8	Associate Justice, Supreme Court	197,802
9	Chief Judge, Court of Appeals	194,674
10	Judge, Court of Appeals	189,621
11	Judge, Senior Regular Resident Superior Court	174,250
12	Judge, Superior Court	169,125
13	Chief Judge, District Court	167,548
14	Chief Administrative Law Judge	141,955
15	District Attorney	154,622
16	Assistant Administrative Officer of the Courts	148,899
17	Public Defender	154,622
18	Director of Indigent Defense Services	159,363

19 **SECTION 39.6.(b)** The district attorney of a judicial district, with the approval of
 20 the Administrative Officer of the Courts, and the public defender of a judicial district, with the
 21 approval of the Commission on Indigent Defense Services, shall set the salaries of assistant
 22 district attorneys and assistant public defenders in that district such that the average salary of
 23 those assistants in that district, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, does not exceed ninety-two
 24 thousand four hundred forty-nine dollars (\$92,449) and the minimum salary of any assistant is at
 25 least forty-six thousand six hundred nineteen dollars (\$46,619), effective July 1, 2023.

26 **SECTION 39.6.(b1)** The district attorney of a judicial district, with the approval of
 27 the Administrative Officer of the Courts, and the public defender of a judicial district, with the
 28 approval of the Commission on Indigent Defense Services, shall set the salaries of assistant
 29 district attorneys and assistant public defenders in that district such that the average salary of
 30 those assistants in that district, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, does not exceed ninety-four
 31 thousand seven hundred sixty dollars (\$94,760) and the minimum salary of any assistant is at
 32 least fifty thousand eight hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$50,859), effective July 1, 2024.

33

34 **CLERKS OF SUPERIOR COURT**

35 **SECTION 39.7.(a)** Effective July 1, 2023, G.S. 7A-101(a) reads as rewritten:

36 "(a) The clerk of superior court is a full-time employee of the State and shall receive an
 37 annual salary, payable in equal monthly installments, based on the number of State-funded
 38 assistant and deputy clerks of court as determined by the Administrative Office of Court's
 39 workload formula, according to the following schedule:

40	Assistants and Deputies	Annual Salary
41	0-19	\$104,300 \$106,908
42	20-29	115,280 118,162
43	30-49	126,259 129,415
44	50-99	137,238 140,669
45	100 and above	139,983 143,483

46 If the number of State-funded assistant and deputy clerks of court as determined by the
 47 Administrative Office of Court's workload formula changes, the salary of the clerk shall be
 48 changed, on July 1 of the fiscal year for which the change is reported, to the salary appropriate
 49 for that new number, except that the salary of an incumbent clerk shall not be decreased by any
 50 change in that number during the clerk's continuance in office."

1 **SECTION 39.7.(a1)** Effective July 1, 2024, G.S. 7A-101(a), as amended by
 2 subsection (a) of this section, reads as rewritten:

3 "(a) The clerk of superior court is a full-time employee of the State and shall receive an
 4 annual salary, payable in equal monthly installments, based on the number of State-funded
 5 assistant and deputy clerks of court as determined by the Administrative Office of Court's
 6 workload formula, according to the following schedule:

Assistants and Deputies	Annual Salary
0-19	\$106,908 <u>\$109,581</u>
20-29	118,162 <u>121,116</u>
30-49	129,415 <u>132,650</u>
50-99	140,669 <u>144,186</u>
100 and above	143,483 <u>147,070</u>

13 If the number of State-funded assistant and deputy clerks of court as determined by the
 14 Administrative Office of Court's workload formula changes, the salary of the clerk shall be
 15 changed, on July 1 of the fiscal year for which the change is reported, to the salary appropriate
 16 for that new number, except that the salary of an incumbent clerk shall not be decreased by any
 17 change in that number during the clerk's continuance in office."

18
 19 **ASSISTANT AND DEPUTY CLERKS OF COURT**

20 **SECTION 39.8.(a)** Effective July 1, 2023, G.S. 7A-102(c1) reads as rewritten:

21 "(c1) A full-time assistant clerk or a full-time deputy clerk, and up to one full-time deputy
 22 clerk serving as head bookkeeper per county, shall be paid an annual salary subject to the
 23 following minimum and maximum rates:

Assistant Clerks and Head Bookkeeper	Annual Salary
Minimum	\$37,254 <u>\$38,930</u>
Maximum	68,828 <u>71,925</u>
Deputy Clerks	Annual Salary
Minimum	\$33,419 <u>\$34,923</u>
Maximum	54,056 <u>56,489</u> "

32 **SECTION 39.8.(a1)** Effective July 1, 2024, G.S. 7A-102(c1), as amended by
 33 subsection (a) of this section, reads as rewritten:

34 "(c1) A full-time assistant clerk or a full-time deputy clerk, and up to one full-time deputy
 35 clerk serving as head bookkeeper per county, shall be paid an annual salary subject to the
 36 following minimum and maximum rates:

Assistant Clerks and Head Bookkeeper	Annual Salary
Minimum	\$38,930 <u>\$39,903</u>
Maximum	71,925 <u>73,723</u>
Deputy Clerks	Annual Salary
Minimum	\$34,923 <u>\$35,796</u>
Maximum	56,489 <u>57,901</u> "

46 **MAGISTRATES**

47 **SECTION 39.9.(a)** Effective July 1, 2023, G.S. 7A-171.1(a)(1) reads as rewritten:

48 "(a) The Administrative Officer of the Courts, after consultation with the chief district
 49 judge and pursuant to the following provisions, shall set an annual salary for each magistrate:

- 50 (1) A full-time magistrate shall be paid the annual salary indicated in the table set
 51 out in this subdivision. A full-time magistrate is a magistrate who is assigned

1 to work an average of not less than 40 hours a week during the term of office.
 2 The Administrative Officer of the Courts shall designate whether a magistrate
 3 is full-time. Initial appointment shall be at the entry rate. A magistrate's salary
 4 shall increase to the next step every two years on the anniversary of the date
 5 the magistrate was originally appointed for increases to Steps 1 through 3, and
 6 every four years on the anniversary of the date the magistrate was originally
 7 appointed for increases to Steps 4 through 6:

8 Table of Salaries of Full-Time Magistrates

9 Step Level	Annual Salary
10 Entry Rate	\$43,462\$45,418
11 Step 1	\$46,670\$48,770
12 Step 2	\$50,131\$52,387
13 Step 3	\$53,795\$56,216
14 Step 4	\$58,186\$60,804
15 Step 5	\$63,473\$66,329
16 Step 6	\$69,401,\$72,524."

17 **SECTION 39.9.(a1)** Effective July 1, 2024, G.S. 7A-171.1(a)(1), as amended by
 18 subsection (a) of this section, reads as rewritten:

19 "(a) The Administrative Officer of the Courts, after consultation with the chief district
 20 judge and pursuant to the following provisions, shall set an annual salary for each magistrate:

21 (1) A full-time magistrate shall be paid the annual salary indicated in the table set
 22 out in this subdivision. A full-time magistrate is a magistrate who is assigned
 23 to work an average of not less than 40 hours a week during the term of office.
 24 The Administrative Officer of the Courts shall designate whether a magistrate
 25 is full-time. Initial appointment shall be at the entry rate. A magistrate's salary
 26 shall increase to the next step every two years on the anniversary of the date
 27 the magistrate was originally appointed for increases to Steps 1 through 3, and
 28 every four years on the anniversary of the date the magistrate was originally
 29 appointed for increases to Steps 4 through 6:

30 Table of Salaries of Full-Time Magistrates

31 Step Level	Annual Salary
32 Entry Rate	\$45,418\$46,553
33 Step 1	\$48,770\$49,989
34 Step 2	\$52,387\$53,697
35 Step 3	\$56,216\$57,621
36 Step 4	\$60,804\$62,324
37 Step 5	\$66,329\$67,987
38 Step 6	\$72,524,\$74,337."

39
 40 **LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES**

41 **SECTION 39.10.(a)** Effective July 1, 2023, the annual salaries of the Legislative
 42 Services Officer and of nonelected employees of the General Assembly in effect on June 30,
 43 2023, shall be legislatively increased by two and fifty-hundredths percent (2.50%).

44 **SECTION 39.10.(a1)** Effective July 1, 2024, the annual salaries of the Legislative
 45 Services Officer and of nonelected employees of the General Assembly in effect on June 30,
 46 2024, shall be legislatively increased by two and fifty-hundredths percent (2.50%).

47 **SECTION 39.10.(b)** Nothing in this act limits any of the provisions of G.S. 120-32.

48
 49 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRINCIPAL CLERKS**

50 **SECTION 39.11.(a)** Effective July 1, 2023, G.S. 120-37(c) reads as rewritten:

1 "(c) The principal clerks shall be full-time officers. Each principal clerk shall be entitled
2 to other benefits available to permanent legislative employees and shall be paid an annual salary
3 of ~~one hundred twenty five thousand thirty four dollars (\$125,034)~~, one hundred twenty-eight
4 thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$128,160), payable monthly. Each principal clerk shall also
5 receive such additional compensation as approved by the Speaker of the House of
6 Representatives or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, respectively, for additional
7 employment duties beyond those provided by the rules of their House. The Legislative Services
8 Commission shall review the salary of the principal clerks prior to submission of the proposed
9 operating budget of the General Assembly to the Governor and shall make appropriate
10 recommendations for changes in those salaries. Any changes enacted by the General Assembly
11 shall be by amendment to this paragraph."

12 **SECTION 39.11.(b)** Effective July 1, 2024, G.S. 120-37(c), as amended by
13 subsection (a) of this section, reads as rewritten:

14 "(c) The principal clerks shall be full-time officers. Each principal clerk shall be entitled
15 to other benefits available to permanent legislative employees and shall be paid an annual salary
16 of ~~one hundred twenty eight thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$128,160)~~, one hundred
17 thirty-one thousand three hundred sixty-four dollars (\$131,364), payable monthly. Each principal
18 clerk shall also receive such additional compensation as approved by the Speaker of the House
19 of Representatives or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, respectively, for additional
20 employment duties beyond those provided by the rules of their House. The Legislative Services
21 Commission shall review the salary of the principal clerks prior to submission of the proposed
22 operating budget of the General Assembly to the Governor and shall make appropriate
23 recommendations for changes in those salaries. Any changes enacted by the General Assembly
24 shall be by amendment to this paragraph."

25 26 **SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS/READING CLERKS**

27 **SECTION 39.12.(a)** Effective July 1, 2023, G.S. 120-37(b) reads as rewritten:

28 "(b) The sergeant at arms and the reading clerk in each house shall be paid a salary of ~~four~~
29 ~~hundred ninety three dollars (\$493.00)~~ five hundred five dollars (\$505.00) per week plus
30 subsistence at the same daily rate provided for members of the General Assembly, plus mileage
31 at the rate provided for members of the General Assembly for one round trip only from their
32 homes to Raleigh and return. The sergeants at arms shall serve during sessions of the General
33 Assembly and at such time prior to the convening of, and subsequent to adjournment or recess
34 of, sessions as may be authorized by the Legislative Services Commission. The reading clerks
35 shall serve during sessions only."

36 **SECTION 39.12.(b)** Effective July 1, 2024, G.S. 120-37(b), as amended by
37 subsection (a) of this section, reads as rewritten:

38 "(b) The sergeant at arms and the reading clerk in each house shall be paid a salary of ~~five~~
39 ~~hundred five dollars (\$505.00)~~ five hundred eighteen dollars (\$518.00) per week plus subsistence
40 at the same daily rate provided for members of the General Assembly, plus mileage at the rate
41 provided for members of the General Assembly for one round trip only from their homes to
42 Raleigh and return. The sergeants at arms shall serve during sessions of the General Assembly
43 and at such time prior to the convening of, and subsequent to adjournment or recess of, sessions
44 as may be authorized by the Legislative Services Commission. The reading clerks shall serve
45 during sessions only."

46 47 **COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

48 **SECTION 39.13.(a)** Community college personnel shall receive the following
49 legislative salary increases:

- 50 (1) Effective July 1, 2023, the State Board of Community Colleges shall provide
51 community college faculty and non-faculty personnel with an

1 across-the-board salary increase in the amount of two and fifty-hundredths
 2 percent (2.50%).
 3 (2) Effective July 1, 2024, the State Board of Community Colleges shall provide
 4 community college faculty and non-faculty personnel with an
 5 across-the-board salary increase in the amount of two and fifty-hundredths
 6 percent (2.50%).

7 **SECTION 39.13.(b)** Effective July 1, 2023, the minimum salaries for nine-month,
 8 full-time curriculum community college faculty for the 2023-2024 fiscal year are as follows:

	Minimum Salary
Education Level	2023-2024
11 Vocational Diploma/Certificate or Less	41,260
12 Associate Degree or Equivalent	41,834
13 Bachelor's Degree	44,323
14 Master's Degree or Education Specialist	46,532
15 Doctoral Degree	49,716

16 **SECTION 39.13.(b1)** Effective July 1, 2024, the minimum salaries for nine-month,
 17 full-time curriculum community college faculty for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are as follows:

	Minimum Salary
Education Level	2024-2025
20 Vocational Diploma/Certificate or Less	42,292
21 Associate Degree or Equivalent	42,880
22 Bachelor's Degree	45,431
23 Master's Degree or Education Specialist	47,695
24 Doctoral Degree	50,959

25 **SECTION 39.13.(c)** No full-time faculty member shall earn less than the minimum
 26 salary for the faculty member's education level. The pro rata hourly rate of the minimum salary
 27 for each education level shall be used to determine the minimum salary for part-time faculty
 28 members.

29
 30 **THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

31 **SECTION 39.14.** The University of North Carolina shall receive the following
 32 legislative salary increases:

- 33 (1) Effective July 1, 2023, the Board of Governors of The University of North
 34 Carolina shall provide SHRA employees, EHRA employees, and teachers
 35 employed by the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics with an
 36 across-the-board salary increase in the amount of two and fifty-hundredths
 37 percent (2.50%).
 38 (2) Effective July 1, 2024, the Board of Governors of The University of North
 39 Carolina shall provide SHRA employees, EHRA employees, and teachers
 40 employed by the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics with an
 41 across-the-board salary increase in the amount of two and fifty-hundredths
 42 percent (2.50%).

43
 44 **CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS/YOUTH COUNSELORS/YOUTH COUNSELOR**
 45 **TECHNICIANS/YOUTH SERVICES BEHAVIORAL SPECIALISTS – SALARY**
 46 **SCHEDULE**

47 **SECTION 39.15.(a)** State employees serving as correctional officers in the
 48 Department of Adult Correction shall be compensated at a specific pay rate on the basis of a
 49 salary schedule determined according to the duration of the employee's correctional officer work
 50 experience.

1 **SECTION 39.15.(a1)** State employees serving in the Department of Public Safety,
 2 Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, shall be compensated at a specific pay
 3 rate set on the basis of a salary schedule determined according to the duration of the employee's
 4 work experience, as follows:

- 5 (1) Youth Counselor Technicians shall be paid under the Correctional Officer I
 6 salary schedule.
- 7 (2) Youth Services Behavioral Specialists shall be paid under the Correctional
 8 Officer II salary schedule.
- 9 (3) Youth Counselors shall be paid under the Correctional Officer III salary
 10 schedule.

11 **SECTION 39.15.(b)** The following annual salary schedule applies under subsections
 12 (a) and (a1) of this section for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, effective for each year on July 1,
 13 2023, and July 1, 2024, respectively:

	FY 2023-24			FY 2024-25		
Experience	COI	COII	COIII	COI	COII	COIII
0	\$36,179	\$37,369	\$39,966	\$37,083	\$38,303	\$40,965
1	\$38,711	\$39,985	\$42,763	\$39,679	\$40,985	\$43,832
2	\$41,034	\$42,384	\$45,330	\$42,060	\$43,444	\$46,463
3	\$43,085	\$44,503	\$47,597	\$44,162	\$45,616	\$48,787
4	\$44,809	\$46,283	\$49,501	\$45,929	\$47,440	\$50,739
5	\$46,153	\$47,671	\$50,986	\$47,307	\$48,863	\$52,261
6+	\$47,076	\$48,625	\$52,005	\$48,253	\$49,841	\$53,305

24 **SECTION 39.15.(c)** If an employee will not receive a salary increase during a fiscal
 25 year because the employee's salary exceeds the scheduled salary level, then the employee shall
 26 receive an annual salary increase equal to the amount of the across-the-board legislative salary
 27 increase authorized in this Part for that fiscal year.

28
 29 **STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SALARY SCHEDULE**

30 **SECTION 39.16.(a)** Law enforcement officers of the State Highway Patrol, State
 31 Bureau of Investigation, and Alcohol Law Enforcement shall be compensated pursuant to an
 32 experience-based salary schedule and shall be compensated based on the officer's respective
 33 work experience pursuant to the salary schedule in subsection (b) of this section.

34 **SECTION 39.16.(b)** The following annual salary schedule applies under subsection
 35 (a) of this section for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, effective July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024, for
 36 each respective fiscal year:

Years of Experience	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
0	52,487	55,636
1	55,899	59,253
2	59,533	63,105
3	63,403	67,207
4	67,524	71,575
5	71,914	76,229
6+	76,588	81,183

45
 46 **PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICERS/JUVENILE COURT COUNSELORS –**
 47 **SALARY SCHEDULE**

48 **SECTION 39.18.(a)** Probation and parole officers shall be compensated pursuant to
 49 the experience-based salary schedule based on the officer's respective work experience, as
 50 established in subsection (b) of this section.

1 **SECTION 39.18.(a1)** State employees serving in the Department of Public Safety,
 2 Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, as Juvenile Court Counselors shall be
 3 compensated under the probation and parole officer salary schedule.

4 **SECTION 39.18.(b)** The following annual salary schedule applies under subsections
 5 (a) and (a1) of this section for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, effective July 1, 2023, and July 1,
 6 2024, for each respective fiscal year:

8 Years of Experience	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
9 0	43,681	44,773
10 1	46,520	47,683
11 2	49,544	50,783
12 3	52,765	54,084
13 4	56,195	57,600
14 5	59,847	61,343
15 6+	63,738	65,331

16
 17 **SECTION 39.18.(c)** If an employee will not receive a salary increase during a fiscal
 18 year because the employee's salary exceeds the scheduled salary level, then the employee shall
 19 receive an annual salary increase equal to the amount of the across-the-board legislative salary
 20 increase authorized in this Part for that fiscal year.

21
 22 **PAY PLAN RESERVE**

23 **SECTION 39.19.** G.S. 143C-4-9(a) reads as rewritten:

24 "(a) Creation. – The Pay Plan Reserve is established within the General Fund. The General
 25 Assembly shall appropriate in the Current Operations Appropriations Act (Act) or other
 26 appropriations act a specific amount to this reserve for allocation, on an as-needed basis only, to
 27 fund statutory and scheduled pay expenses authorized by:

- 28 (1) G.S. 20-187.3, and the Act, for troopers of the State Highway Patrol
 29 compensated pursuant to an experience-based salary schedule.
- 30 (2) G.S. 7A-102.
- 31 (3) G.S. 7A-171.1.
- 32 (4) Teacher Salary Schedule, as enacted by the General Assembly.
- 33 (5) Pay Plans for Principals and Assistant Principals, as enacted by the General
 34 Assembly.
- 35 (6) The Act, for law enforcement officers of the State Bureau of Investigation and
 36 Alcohol Law Enforcement.
- 37 (7) The Act, for correctional officers and other employees compensated pursuant
 38 to the Correctional Officer Salary Schedule.
- 39 (8) The Act, for probation and parole officers and other employees compensated
 40 pursuant to the Probation and Parole Officer Salary Schedule."

41
 42 **STATE AGENCY TEACHERS**

43 **SECTION 39.20.** Employees of schools operated by the Department of Health and
 44 Human Services, the Department of Public Safety, and the State Board of Education who are
 45 paid on the Teacher Salary Schedule shall be paid as authorized under this act.

46
 47 **MOST STATE EMPLOYEES**

48 **SECTION 39.21.** Unless otherwise expressly provided by this Part, the annual
 49 salaries in effect for the following persons on June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024, shall be
 50 legislatively increased as provided by this act:

- 1 (1) Permanent, full-time State officials and persons whose salaries are set in
2 accordance with the State Human Resources Act.
- 3 (2) Permanent, full-time State officials and persons in positions exempt from the
4 State Human Resources Act.
- 5 (3) Permanent, part-time State employees.
- 6 (4) Temporary and permanent hourly State employees.
- 7

8 **ALL STATE SUPPORTED PERSONNEL**

9 **SECTION 39.22.(a)** The legislative salary increases authorized by this act:

- 10 (1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, shall be paid effective on July 1, 2023, and do
11 not apply to persons separated from service due to resignation, dismissal,
12 reduction in force, death, or retirement or whose last workday is prior to June
13 30, 2023.
- 14 (2) For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, shall be paid effective on July 1, 2024, and do
15 not apply to persons separated from service due to resignation, dismissal,
16 reduction in force, death, or retirement or whose last workday is prior to June
17 30, 2024.

18 **SECTION 39.22.(b)** The Director of the Budget is granted flexibility to administer
19 the compensation increases enacted by this act. The State employer contribution rates enacted by
20 this act for retirement and related benefits may be deemed by the Director of the Budget for
21 administrative purposes to become effective after July 1 of the applicable fiscal year to provide
22 flexibility in the collection and reconciliation of salary-related contributions as required by law,
23 provided the estimated amount contributed to any affected employee benefit trust equals the
24 amount that would have been contributed to the employee benefit trust if the enacted employer
25 contribution rates had been effective on July 1 of the applicable fiscal year.

26 **SECTION 39.22.(c)** This section applies to all employees paid from State funds,
27 whether or not subject to or exempt from the North Carolina Human Resources Act, including
28 employees of public schools, community colleges, and The University of North Carolina.

30 **OTHER SALARY ADJUSTMENTS/UNC & COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING** 31 **FACULTY**

32 **SECTION 39.23.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, effective July 1, 2023, the
33 annual salaries of nursing faculty positions at The University of North Carolina and in the North
34 Carolina Community College System shall be increased such that:

- 35 (1) The starting pay of nursing faculty positions shall be increased by at least ten
36 percent (10%).
- 37 (2) No nursing faculty member's annual salary shall be increased by more than
38 fifteen percent (15%).
- 39

40 **MITIGATE BONUS LEAVE**

41 **SECTION 39.24.** During the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, State agencies,
42 departments, institutions, the North Carolina Community College System, and The University of
43 North Carolina may offer State employees the opportunity to use or to cash in special bonus leave
44 benefits that have accrued pursuant to Section 28.3A of S.L. 2002-126, Section 30.12B(a) of S.L.
45 2003-284, Section 29.14A of S.L. 2005-276, and Section 35.10A of S.L. 2014-100, but only if
46 all of the following requirements are met:

- 47 (1) Employee participation in the program must be voluntary.
- 48 (2) Special leave that is liquidated for cash payment to an employee must be
49 valued at the amount based on the employee's current annual salary rate.

- 1 (3) By March 1, 2025, a report on the position characteristics of employees
2 participating in the program shall be submitted to the respective agency head
3 or employing agency and to the Fiscal Research Division.
4

5 **USE OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED INCREASES**

6 **SECTION 39.25.(a)** The Office of State Budget and Management shall ensure that
7 the appropriations made by this act for legislatively mandated salary increases and employee
8 benefits are used only for those purposes.

9 **SECTION 39.25.(b)** If the Director of the Budget determines that funds appropriated
10 to a State agency for legislatively mandated salary increases and employee benefits exceed the
11 amount required by that agency for those purposes, the Director may reallocate those funds to
12 other State agencies that received insufficient funds for legislatively mandated salary increases
13 and employee benefits.

14 **SECTION 39.25.(c)** Funds appropriated for legislatively mandated salary and
15 employee benefit increases may not be used to adjust the budgeted salaries of vacant positions,
16 to provide salary increases in excess of those required by the General Assembly, or to increase
17 the budgeted salary of filled positions to the minimum of the position's respective salary range.

18 **SECTION 39.25.(d)** Any funds appropriated for legislatively mandated salary and
19 employee benefit increases in excess of the amounts required to implement the increases shall be
20 credited to the Pay Plan Reserve.

21 **SECTION 39.25.(e)** No later than May 1, 2024, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and
22 subsequently May 1, 2025, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Office of State Budget and
23 Management shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and
24 the Fiscal Research Division on the expenditure of funds for legislatively mandated salary
25 increases and employee benefits. This report shall include at least the following information for
26 each State agency for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium:

- 27 (1) The total amount of funds that the agency received for legislatively mandated
28 salary increases and employee benefits.
29 (2) The total amount of funds transferred from the agency to other State agencies
30 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. This section of the report shall
31 identify the amounts transferred to each recipient State agency.
32 (3) The total amount of funds used by the agency for legislatively mandated salary
33 increases and employee benefits.
34 (4) The amount of funds credited to the Pay Plan Reserve.
35

36 **SALARY-RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS**

37 **SECTION 39.26.(a)** Effective for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, required employer
38 salary-related contributions for employees whose salaries are paid from department, office,
39 institution, or agency receipts shall be paid from the same source as the source of the employee's
40 salary. If an employee's salary is paid in part from the General Fund or Highway Fund and in
41 part from department, office, institution, or agency receipts, required employer salary-related
42 contributions may be paid from the General Fund or Highway Fund only to the extent of the
43 proportionate part paid from the General Fund or Highway Fund in support of the salary of the
44 employee, and the remainder of the employer's requirements shall be paid from the source that
45 supplies the remainder of the employee's salary. The requirements of this section as to source of
46 payment are also applicable to payments on behalf of the employee for hospital medical benefits,
47 longevity pay, unemployment compensation, accumulated leave, workers' compensation,
48 severance pay, separation allowances, and applicable disability income benefits.

49 **SECTION 39.26.(b)** Effective July 1, 2023, the State's employer contribution rates
50 budgeted for retirement and related benefits as a percentage of covered salaries for the 2023-2024
51 fiscal year for teachers and State employees, State law enforcement officers (LEOs), the

1 University and Community Colleges Optional Retirement Programs (ORPs), the Consolidated
 2 Judicial Retirement System (CJRS), and the Legislative Retirement System (LRS) are as set forth
 3 below:

	Teachers and State Employees	State LEOs	ORPs	CJRS	LRS
7 Retirement	16.74%	16.74%	6.84%	33.45%	19.12%
8 Disability	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%	0.00%	0.00%
9 Death	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
10 Retiree Health	7.14%	7.14%	7.14%	7.14%	7.14%
11 NC 401(k)	0.00%	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

12
 13 **Total Contribution**

14 Rate	24.12%	29.12%	14.09%	40.59%	26.26%
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15 The rate for teachers and State employees and State law enforcement officers includes
 16 one one-hundredth percent (0.01%) for the Qualified Excess Benefit Arrangement.

17 **SECTION 39.26.(c)** Effective July 1, 2024, the State's employer contribution rates
 18 budgeted for retirement and related benefits as a percentage of covered salaries for the 2024-2025
 19 fiscal year for teachers and State employees, State law enforcement officers (LEOs), the
 20 University and Community Colleges Optional Retirement Programs (ORPs), the Consolidated
 21 Judicial Retirement System (CJRS), and the Legislative Retirement System (LRS) are as set forth
 22 below:

	Teachers and State Employees	State LEOs	ORPs	CJRS	LRS
26 Retirement	17.09%	17.09%	6.84%	37.61%	22.51%
27 Disability	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%	0.00%
28 Death	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
29 Retiree Health	6.99%	6.99%	6.99%	6.99%	6.99%
30 NC 401(k)	0.00%	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

31
 32 **Total Contribution**

33 Rate	24.34%	29.34%	13.96%	44.60%	29.50%
----------------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

34 The rate for teachers and State employees and State law enforcement officers includes
 35 one one-hundredth percent (0.01%) for the Qualified Excess Benefit Arrangement.

36 **SECTION 39.26.(d)** Effective July 1, 2023, the annual employer contributions for
 37 the 2023-2024 fiscal year, payable monthly, by the State to the North Carolina State Health Plan
 38 for Teachers and State Employees for each covered employee and retiree are as follows:

- 39 (1) For employees, a maximum of seven thousand five hundred fifty-seven dollars
 40 (\$7,557).
- 41 (2) For retirees, a recommended amount of five thousand five hundred
 42 twenty-five dollars (\$5,525).

43 **SECTION 39.26.(e)** Effective July 1, 2024, the annual employer contributions for
 44 the 2024-2025 fiscal year, payable monthly, by the State to the North Carolina State Health Plan
 45 for Teachers and State Employees for each covered employee and retiree are as follows:

- 46 (1) For employees, a maximum amount of eight thousand ninety-five dollars
 47 (\$8,095).
- 48 (2) For retirees, a recommended amount of five thousand four hundred five
 49 dollars (\$5,405).

1 **1% COST-OF-LIVING SUPPLEMENTS FOR RETIREES OF THE TEACHERS' AND**
2 **STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE JUDICIAL RETIREMENT**
3 **SYSTEM, AND THE LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

4 **SECTION 39.27.(a)** G.S. 135-5 is amended by adding two new subsections to read:

5 "(zzz) On or before October 31, 2023, a one-time cost-of-living supplement payment shall
6 be made to or on account of beneficiaries who are living as of September 1, 2023, and whose
7 retirement commenced on or before September 1, 2023. The payment shall be one percent (1%)
8 of the beneficiary's annual retirement allowance payable as of September 1, 2023, and shall not
9 be prorated for date of retirement commencement. If the beneficiary dies before the payment is
10 made, then the payment shall be payable to the member's legal representative. No beneficiary
11 shall be deemed to have acquired a vested right to any future supplemental payments.

12 (aaaa) After September 1, 2024, but on or before October 31, 2024, a one-time cost-of-living
13 supplement payment shall be made to or on account of beneficiaries who are living as of
14 September 1, 2024, and whose retirement commenced on or before September 1, 2024. The
15 payment shall be one percent (1%) of the beneficiary's annual retirement allowance payable as
16 of September 1, 2024, and shall not be prorated for date of retirement commencement. If the
17 beneficiary dies before the payment is made, then the payment shall be payable to the member's
18 legal representative. No beneficiary shall be deemed to have acquired a vested right to any future
19 supplemental payments."

20 **SECTION 39.27.(b)** G.S. 135-65 is amended by adding two new subsections to read:

21 "(kk) On or before October 31, 2023, a one-time cost-of-living supplement payment shall
22 be made to or on account of beneficiaries who are living as of September 1, 2023, and whose
23 retirement commenced on or before September 1, 2023. The payment shall be one percent (1%)
24 of the beneficiary's annual retirement allowance payable as of September 1, 2023, and shall not
25 be prorated for date of retirement commencement. If the beneficiary dies before the payment is
26 made, then the payment shall be payable to the member's legal representative. No beneficiary
27 shall be deemed to have acquired a vested right to any future supplemental payments.

28 (ll) After September 1, 2024, but on or before October 31, 2024, a one-time cost-of-living
29 supplement payment shall be made to or on account of beneficiaries who are living as of
30 September 1, 2024, and whose retirement commenced on or before September 1, 2024. The
31 payment shall be one percent (1%) of the beneficiary's annual retirement allowance payable as
32 of September 1, 2024, and shall not be prorated for date of retirement commencement. If the
33 beneficiary dies before the payment is made, then the payment shall be payable to the member's
34 legal representative. No beneficiary shall be deemed to have acquired a vested right to any future
35 supplemental payments."

36 **SECTION 39.27.(c)** G.S. 120-4.22A is amended by adding two new subsections to
37 read:

38 "(ee) In accordance with subsection (a) of this section, on or before October 31, 2023, a
39 one-time cost-of-living supplement payment shall be made to or on account of beneficiaries who
40 are living as of September 1, 2023, and whose retirement commenced on or before September 1,
41 2023. The payment shall be one percent (1%) of the beneficiary's annual retirement allowance
42 payable as of September 1, 2023, and shall not be prorated for date of retirement commencement.
43 If the beneficiary dies before the payment is made, then the payment shall be payable to the
44 member's legal representative. No beneficiary shall be deemed to have acquired a vested right to
45 any future supplemental payments.

46 (ff) In accordance with subsection (a) of this section, after September 1, 2024, but on or
47 before October 31, 2024, a one-time cost-of-living supplement payment shall be made to or on
48 account of beneficiaries who are living as of September 1, 2024, and whose retirement
49 commenced on or before September 1, 2024. The payment shall be one percent (1%) of the
50 beneficiary's annual retirement allowance payable as of September 1, 2024, and shall not be
51 prorated for date of retirement commencement. If the beneficiary dies before the payment is

1 made, then the payment shall be payable to the member's legal representative. No beneficiary
 2 shall be deemed to have acquired a vested right to any future supplemental payments."

3 **SECTION 39.27.(d)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in
 4 order to administer the one-time cost-of-living supplement for retirees provided for in
 5 subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, the Retirement Systems Division of the Department
 6 of State Treasurer may increase receipts from the retirement assets of the corresponding
 7 retirement system or pay costs associated with the administration of the payment directly from
 8 the retirement assets.

9
 10 **UNFUNDED LIABILITY SOLVENCY RESERVE**

11 **SECTION 39.28.(a)** G.S. 143C-4-10 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 143C-4-10. Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve.**

13 ...

14 ~~(e) Use of Funds Appropriated by the General Assembly or Transferred From the General~~
 15 ~~Fund Based on Estimated State Tax Revenue Growth.—On the first day of each fiscal year, the~~
 16 ~~total amount of funds (i) appropriated by the General Assembly to the Reserve as specified in~~
 17 ~~subdivision (e)(1) of this section and (ii) transferred into the Reserve under G.S. 143C-4-2(i) or~~
 18 ~~(j) as specified in subdivision (c)(1a) of this section, as of the last day of the preceding fiscal year~~
 19 ~~shall be used to appropriate an additional employer contribution to the Health Benefit Trust and~~
 20 ~~the Retirement System.~~

21 ~~(e1) Use of Funds Transferred From Savings Achieved by State Debt Refinancing into~~
 22 ~~the Reserve.—As soon as practicable after funds are transferred into the Reserve under~~
 23 ~~G.S. 142-15.4 and G.S. 142-96, as specified in subdivision (e)(2) of this section, Reserve, the~~
 24 ~~State Controller, in conjunction with the State Treasurer, shall transfer the total amount of these~~
 25 ~~funds to the Health Benefit Fund and the Retirement System. These funds shall be divided~~
 26 ~~between the Health Benefit Fund and the Retirement System according to each program's~~
 27 ~~proportion of the State's total unfunded liability of both programs as reported in the most recent~~
 28 ~~Annual Comprehensive Financial Report issued by the State Controller.Fund.~~

29 ~~(e2) Use of Funds Transferred From Insurance Rebates.—As soon as practicable after~~
 30 ~~funds are transferred into the Reserve as specified in subdivision (e)(3) of this section, the State~~
 31 ~~Controller, in conjunction with the State Treasurer, shall transfer the total amount of these funds~~
 32 ~~to the Health Benefit Fund and the Retirement System. These funds shall be divided between the~~
 33 ~~Health Benefit Fund and the Retirement System according to each program's proportion of the~~
 34 ~~State's total unfunded liability of both programs as reported in the most recent Annual~~
 35 ~~Comprehensive Financial Report issued by the State Controller.~~

36"

37 **SECTION 39.28.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
 38 fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2023.

39
 40 **AUTHORIZE STATE TREASURER TO PAY PREMIUMS TO PURCHASE**
 41 **ALTERNATIVE COVERAGE IN LIEU OF STATE HEALTH PLAN**

42 **SECTION 39.29.(a)** G.S. 135-48.30(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
 43 read:

44 "(19) Optionally offer to pay premiums to purchase alternative coverage in lieu of
 45 coverage under the Plan under G.S. 135-48.39A."

46 **SECTION 39.29.(b)** Part 3 of Article 3B of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes is
 47 amended by adding a new section to read:

48 **"§ 135-48.39A. Premiums to purchase alternative coverage for retirees in lieu of coverage**
 49 **under the Plan.**

50 (a) The State Treasurer may offer to pay or reimburse premiums for alternative health
 51 benefit plan coverage in lieu of coverage under the State Health Plan. If the State Treasurer elects

1 to offer premium payments in lieu of coverage, then the State Treasurer shall adopt rules for and
2 limitations on doing so.

3 (b) Premium payments in lieu of coverage shall be limited to persons eligible for
4 coverage under the following, and the State Treasurer may vary the amounts of premium
5 payments depending on the category of eligibility:

6 (1) G.S. 135-48.40(a)(1).

7 (2) G.S. 135-48.40(a)(2).

8 (3) G.S. 135-48.40(b)(3).

9 (4) G.S. 135-48.40(b)(4).

10 (5) G.S. 135-48.40(c)(2).

11 (c) Notwithstanding the eligibility for coverage provided in Part 4 of this Article,
12 coverage outside of the Plan shall be in lieu of coverage under the Plan during the period for
13 which the Plan member chooses premium payments in lieu of coverage."

14 **SECTION 39.29.(c)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2024.

16 STATE HEALTH PLAN HOSPITAL SAVINGS INITIATIVE

17 **SECTION 39.30.(a)** Intent. – It is the intent of the General Assembly to realize
18 savings to the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees by requiring urban hospitals
19 to reduce healthcare costs to the citizens of this State as a requirement for hospital licensure. It is
20 also the intent of the General Assembly to (i) annually establish a hospital healthcare savings
21 target and (ii) realize these targeted savings by authorizing the Board of Trustees of the State
22 Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, or its claims processor, to apportion the targeted
23 savings among urban hospitals and enter into contracts with these hospitals to achieve the
24 apportioned savings. The hospital healthcare savings target established by the General Assembly
25 for the 2026 calendar year is one hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$125,000,000).

26 **SECTION 39.30.(b)** Article 5 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is amended
27 by adding a new section to read:

28 **"§ 131E-78.1. Required healthcare savings agreements between urban hospitals and the**
29 **State Health Plan.**

30 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

31 (1) State Health Plan. – The State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees
32 authorized under Article 3B of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes.

33 (2) Urban hospital. – Any hospital (i) located in a county with a population greater
34 than 210,000 according to the 2020 federal decennial census or any
35 subsequent federal decennial census or (ii) identified as an academic medical
36 center teaching hospital in Appendix F of the 2023 State Medical Facilities
37 Plan. The term does not include any hospital designated by the federal Centers
38 for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a critical access hospital, a rural
39 hospital, or a rural emergency hospital.

40 (b) Required Healthcare Savings Agreement. – The Department shall not issue or renew
41 a license to operate an urban hospital unless the license applicant provides proof that it has
42 entered into a healthcare savings agreement with the Board of Trustees of the State Health Plan,
43 or its claims processor, in accordance with G.S. 135-48.36."

44 **SECTION 39.30.(c)** G.S. 135-48.1 reads as rewritten:

45 **"§ 135-48.1. General definitions.**

46 As used in this Article unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions
47 apply:

48 ...

49 (20) Urban hospital. – As defined in G.S. 131E-78.1."

50 **SECTION 39.30.(d)** G.S. 135-48.22 reads as rewritten:

51 **"§ 135-48.22. Board powers and duties.**

1 The Board of Trustees shall have the following powers and duties:

2 ...
3 (7) Apportion and enter into contracts to achieve the General Assembly's hospital
4 healthcare savings target, as provided in G.S. 135-48.36."

5 **SECTION 39.30.(e)** Article 3B of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes is amended
6 by adding a new section to read:

7 **"§ 135-48.36. Hospital healthcare savings target and apportionment.**

8 (a) Hospital Healthcare Savings Target. – No later than July 1 of each year, the General
9 Assembly shall establish an annual target for hospital healthcare cost savings for the following
10 calendar year. If no target is established, the target established for the previous calendar year
11 shall apply.

12 (b) Savings Target Apportionment. – The Board of Trustees, or its claims processor, shall
13 apportion the hospital healthcare savings target among urban hospitals licensed and operating in
14 this State. This apportionment shall be based on each urban hospital's portion of claims paid to
15 urban hospitals by the Plan during the five previous years.

16 (c) Healthcare Savings Agreements. – The Board of Trustees, or its claims processor,
17 shall contract with urban hospitals to establish healthcare savings agreements. For purposes of
18 this section, a "healthcare savings agreement" means a contractual agreement between an urban
19 hospital and the Board of Trustees, or its claims processor, that sets allowable charges or
20 obligates the hospital to implement cost reduction practices necessary to achieve that hospital's
21 portion of the General Assembly's annual hospital healthcare savings target.

22 (d) Independent Actuary. – The Board of Trustees shall retain an independent actuary to
23 assess whether a healthcare savings agreement achieves the required savings. The actuary shall
24 measure the savings relative to a baseline that projects claims for each urban hospital with
25 medical trend, the impact of any benefit changes adopted by the Board of Trustees, and the impact
26 of any contract between the Board of Trustees and its claims processor.

27 (e) Good Faith and Appeal Requirements. – In apportioning the annual hospital
28 healthcare savings target and negotiating healthcare savings agreements, the Board of Trustees
29 shall operate in good faith. Before determining that proposed healthcare savings agreement does
30 not achieve a hospital's portion of the General Assembly's annual hospital healthcare savings
31 target, the Board of Trustees shall provide the hospital an opportunity to appeal the determination.

32 (f) Rules. – The State Treasurer shall adopt rules under G.S. 135-48.25 to implement this
33 section. These rules shall include all of the following:

34 (1) A methodology for apportioning the hospital healthcare savings target among
35 urban hospitals licensed and operating in this State.

36 (2) Guidelines for negotiating healthcare savings agreements.

37 (3) A process for an urban hospital to appeal a determination by the Board of
38 Trustees that the healthcare savings agreement executed by the urban hospital
39 did not achieve the required savings. This process shall include both of the
40 following:

41 a. An opportunity for the urban hospital to review the assumptions and
42 methods used by the independent actuary retained by the Board of
43 Trustees under subsection (c) of this section.

44 b. An opportunity to present an alternative assessment by an actuary
45 retained by the urban hospital.

46 (g) Report. – The Board of Trustees shall report annually to the Joint Legislative
47 Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division no later than August
48 1. The report shall include all of the following:

49 (1) A summary of the apportionment of the hospital healthcare savings target
50 among urban hospitals licensed and operating in this State.

(2) Whether the healthcare savings target was reached, in total and by each urban hospital."

SECTION 39.30.(f) Subsection (b) of this section becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to applicants seeking to obtain or renew a license on or after that date to operate an urban hospital, as defined by G.S. 131E-78.1, as enacted by this act. The remainder of this section becomes effective January 1, 2025.

PART XL. CAPITAL

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT & REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

SECTION 40.1.(a) The following agency capital improvement projects have been assigned a project code for reference to allocations in this Part, past allocations, and for intended project support by the General Assembly for future fiscal years:

Agency Capital Improvement Project	Project Code
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	
Tidewater Research Station–Swine Unit Replacements	DACS21-2
NCFS–Region 1 Headquarters	DACS21-4
Troxler Science Building–Overflow Parking	DACS23-1
Western NC Farmers Market	DACS23-2
Raleigh State Farmers Market–Improvements	DACS23-3
Pesticide Storage, Loading, & Cleaning Facilities	DACS23-4
Cherry Research Station–Administrative Office	DACS23-5
Griffith Forest Center–Central Warehouse & Office	DACS23-6
NCFS–Property Purchase	DACS23-7
Department of Environmental Quality	
Reedy Creek Laboratory	DEQ21-1
Department of Health and Human Services	
Walter B. Jones–New Medical Office Bldg.	DHHS23-1
Broughton Hospital–New Maintenance & Warehouse Facility	DHHS23-2
Cherry Hospital–New Maintenance Bldg.	DHHS23-3
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	
Fort Fisher Aquarium–Aquarium Expansion	DNCR21-5
NC Museum of History–Expansion	DNCR21-13
Zoo–New Aviary	DNCR23-1
Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site–	
Visitor Center & Exhibit Improvements	DNCR23-6
State Historic Sites–Three New Visitor Centers	DNCR23-7
Thomas Day House–Site Development	DNCR23-8
Energy Savings Equipment/ESCO	DNCR23-9
State Capitol/African-American Monument	DNCR23-10
Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum & State Historic Site–	
Economic & Community Feasibility Study	DNCR23-11
Lake Waccamaw State Park–New Campground	DNCR23-12
Lumber River State Park–Wire Pasture Access Development	DNCR23-13
Department of Administration	
State Government Executive Headquarters	DOA22-1
Department of Instruction Building Renovation	DOA22-3

1	State Agency Lease	DOA23-2
2	Archdale Building Demolition	DOA23-3
3	Caswell Square Demolition	DOA23-4
4	Parking Deck– Bath Building Site	DOA23-5
5		
6	Department of Adult Correction	
7	Stun Fencing	DAC23-1
8	DARTCenter– Exterior Envelope Repairs	DAC23-2
9	Sampson CC–Gatehouse	DAC23-3
10	Gaston CC–Modular Medical Office	DAC23-4
11	Eastern CI–Drainage and Paving	DAC23-5
12	Storage Buildings	DAC23-6
13		
14	Department of Public Safety	
15	State Highway Patrol–	
16	Viper Building	DPS21-6
17	Auditorium	DPS23-3
18	Cadet Dormitory 1	DPS23-7
19	State Bureau of Investigation–	
20	Headquarters & Building 12 Renovation	DPS21-9
21	Logistics Building– Phase 1	DPS23-11
22	Juvenile Justice–	
23	New Youth Detention Center	DPS23-1
24	Cabarrus YDC–Perimeter Fence Modifications	DPS23-5
25	Cabarrus–New Modular Office	DPS23-6
26	Emergency Management–	
27	Badin Logistics Support Center Shed	DPS23-8
28	Badin Warehouse Expansion	DPS23-9
29	Badin Lot Acquisition	DPS23-10
30	National Guard–	
31	Ballentine Building/NCNG Museum	NG23-2
32	Constable Building	NG23-3
33	Winston-Salem FMS 7 Storage Bldg. HAZMAT/POL	NG23-7
34	Winston-Salem FMS 7 Storage Bldg.	NG23-8
35	Louisburg Readiness Center	NG23-9
36		
37	Department of Public Instruction	
38	Center for the Advancement of Teaching	DPI21-1
39		
40	Department of Transportation	
41	North Carolina Global TransPark Authority–	
42	Aircraft Maintenance Repair & Overhaul Facility	TRAN23-1
43		
44	General Assembly	
45	Education Campus Project	NCGA21-3
46	Education Campus Parking Deck	NCGA23-1
47		
48	The University of North Carolina	
49	Appalachian State University–	
50	Peacock Hall/Business	UNC/ASU21-1
51	Hickory Campus	UNC/ASU22-1

1	Walker Hall–Interior Renovation	UNC/ASU23-1
2	University of North Carolina at Charlotte–	
3	Smith Hall–Comprehensive Renovation	UNC/CLT23-1
4	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill–	
5	Nursing School Renovation	UNC/CH20-2
6		
7	Elizabeth City State University–	
8	Flight School	UNC/ECS21-4
9	Infrastructure Repairs–Phase 3	UNC/ECS23-1
10	East Carolina University–	
11	Brody School of Medicine	UNC/ECU21-1
12	Howell Science Building North–Comprehensive Renovation	UNC/ECU23-1
13	Medical Examiner Office	UNC/ECU23-3
14	Regional Children's Behavioral Health Facility	UNC/ECU23-4
15	Fayetteville State University–	
16	College of Education	UNC/FSU21-2
17	H.L. Cook Building–Renovation & Addition	UNC/FSU23-2
18	North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University–	
19	Marteena Hall–Renovation, Phase 2	UNC/A&T23-1
20	North Carolina Central University–	
21	Dent Building–Comprehensive Renovation	UNC/NCC23-1
22	Edmonds Classroom Building–Comprehensive Renovation	UNC/NCC23-2
23	University Theater Renovation	UNC/NCC23-3
24	North Carolina State University–	
25	S.T.E.M. Building	UNC/NCS20-1
26	Mann Hall–Renovation, Phase 2	UNC/NCS23-1
27	Business School	UNC/NCS23-2
28	North Carolina School of Science and Math–	
29	Morganton Campus	
30	Wellness Center	UNC/SSM23-1
31	Durham Campus	
32	Renovation of Residence Halls	UNC/SSM23-2
33	University of North Carolina at Asheville–	
34	Lipinsky Hall–Comp. Modernization/Addition	UNC/AVL23-1
35	University of North Carolina at Greensboro–	
36	Moore Building–Renovation	UNC/GBO23-1
37	University of North Carolina at Pembroke–	
38	Health Sciences Center	UNC/PEM21-1
39	Givens Performing Arts Center–Renovation	UNC/PEM23-1
40	University of North Carolina School of the Arts–	
41	Stevens Center–Renovation, Phase 2	UNC/SA23-1
42	University of North Carolina at Wilmington–	
43	Cameron Hall–Comprehensive Renovation/Expansion	UNC/WIL23-1
44	Kenan Auditorium–Comprehensive Renovation/Expansion	UNC/WIL23-2
45	DeLoach Hall–Modernization	UNC/WIL23-3
46	Western Carolina University–	
47	Replacement Engineering Building	UNC/WCU23-1
48	Winston-Salem State University–	
49	K.R. Williams Auditorium	UNC/WSS21-1
50	Eller Hall–Renovation & Elevator Addition	UNC/WSS23-1
51	Pegram Hall–Renovation & Elevator Addition	UNC/WSS23-2

1	UNC Board of Governors–	
2	UNC Lease Funds	UNC/BOG21-1
3	NC Care Health Clinics	UNC/BOG23-1
4	NC Care Hospital Investment	UNC/BOG23-2
5	Children's Behavioral Health Hospital	UNC/BOG23-3
6	PBS North Carolina	UNC/PBS23-1

7		
8	Repairs and Renovations–The University of North Carolina	UNC/R&R21
9	Repairs and Renovations–State Agencies (non-UNC)	R&R21
10	OSBM Flexibility Funds	FLEX21
11	SCIF-Related Personnel	PERS21
12	Debt Payoff	DST23-1
13	Wildlife Resources Commission–Setzer Hatchery Revision	WRC23-1

14 **SECTION 40.1.(b)** This subsection authorizes the following capital projects in the
15 2023-2025 fiscal biennium based upon projected cash flow needs for the authorized projects. The
16 authorizations provided in this subsection represent the maximum amount of funding from the
17 State Capital and Infrastructure Fund that may be expended on each project and do not reflect
18 authorizations from other non-State Capital and Infrastructure Fund sources. An additional action
19 by the General Assembly is required to increase the maximum authorization for any of the
20 projects listed:

21 **Capital Improvements–**

22	State Capital and	Previous	New/Updated
23	Infrastructure Fund	Project Authorization	Project Authorization
24	DACS21-2	\$3,518,000	\$7,018,000
25	DACS21-4	4,000,000	7,350,000
26	DACS23-1	N/A	2,500,000
27	DACS23-2	N/A	200,000
28	DACS23-3	N/A	13,000,000
29	DACS23-4	N/A	1,750,000
30	DACS23-5	N/A	749,000
31	DACS23-6	N/A	750,000
32	DACS23-7	N/A	12,000,000
33	DEQ21-1	55,000,000	68,300,000
34	DHHS23-1	N/A	1,352,000
35	DHHS23-2	N/A	5,983,000
36	DHHS23-3	N/A	5,405,000
37	DNCR21-5	15,000,000	45,000,000
38	DNCR23-1	N/A	60,000,000
39	DNCR23-6	N/A	5,500,000
40	DNCR23-7	N/A	16,721,240
41	DNCR23-8	N/A	4,000,000
42	DNCR23-9	N/A	1,400,000
43	DNCR23-10	N/A	3,000,000
44	DNCR23-11	N/A	250,000
45	DNCR23-12	N/A	3,000,000
46	DNCR23-13	N/A	2,500,000
47	DOA22-1	88,000,000	88,000,000
48	DOA22-3	15,000,000	60,000,000
49	DOA23-2	N/A	15,000,000
50	DOA23-3	N/A	11,000,000
51	DOA23-4	N/A	15,000,000

1	DOA23-5	N/A	30,000,000
2	DAC23-1	N/A	23,992,000
3	DAC23-2	N/A	2,960,212
4	DAC23-3	N/A	1,521,000
5	DAC23-4	N/A	1,078,000
6	DAC23-5	N/A	4,394,178
7	DAC23-6	N/A	3,488,000
8	DPS21-6	7,139,374	10,634,998
9	DPS23-1	N/A	40,450,000
10	DPS23-3	N/A	35,000,000
11	DPS23-5	N/A	886,000
12	DPS23-6	N/A	690,000
13	DPS23-7	N/A	25,845,000
14	DPS23-8	N/A	527,000
15	DPS23-9	N/A	5,048,828
16	DPS23-10	N/A	4,198,414
17	DPS23-11	N/A	13,883,000
18	NG23-2	N/A	12,500,000
19	NG23-3	N/A	16,428,582
20	NG23-7	N/A	278,208
21	NG23-8	N/A	250,000
22	NG23-9	N/A	3,666,667
23	DPI21-1	23,416,952	30,416,952
24	TRAN23-1	N/A	350,000,000
25	NCGA21-3	269,000,000	340,000,000
26	NCGA23-1	N/A	60,000,000
27	UNC/ASU21-1	25,000,000	40,000,000
28	UNC/ASU22-1	9,000,000	50,000,000
29	UNC/ASU23-1	N/A	18,000,000
30	UNC/CLT23-1	N/A	36,000,000
31	UNC/ECS23-1	N/A	20,000,000
32	UNC/ECU21-1	215,000,000	265,000,000
33	UNC/ECU23-1	N/A	46,000,000
34	UNC/ECU23-3	N/A	35,000,000
35	UNC/ECU23-4	N/A	50,000,000
36	UNC/FSU23-2	N/A	10,000,000
37	UNC/GBO23-1	N/A	24,200,000
38	UNC/A&T23-1	N/A	9,700,000
39	UNC/NCC23-1	N/A	12,073,798
40	UNC/NCC23-2	N/A	12,999,424
41	UNC/NCC23-3	N/A	8,500,000
42	UNC/NCS23-1	N/A	30,000,000
43	UNC/NCS23-2	N/A	4,500,000
44	UNC/SSM23-1	N/A	12,000,000
45	UNC/SSM23-2	N/A	25,206,993
46	UNC/AVL23-1	N/A	26,150,000
47	UNC/PEM23-1	N/A	61,000,000
48	UNC/SA23-1	N/A	51,000,000
49	UNC/WIL23-1	N/A	40,050,000
50	UNC/WIL23-2	N/A	21,600,000
51	UNC/WIL23-3	N/A	12,150,000

1	UNC/WCU23-1	N/A	95,300,000
2	UNC/WSS23-1	N/A	10,800,000
3	UNC/WSS23-2	N/A	16,000,000
4	UNC/PBS23-1	N/A	49,500,000
5	UNC/BOG21-1	15,000,000	18,750,000
6	UNC/BOG23-1	N/A	210,000,000
7	UNC/BOG23-2	N/A	150,000,000
8	UNC/BOG23-3	N/A	500,000,000
9	FLEX21	100,000,000	175,000,000
10	WRC/23-1	N/A	10,000,000

11 **SECTION 40.1.(c)** The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina
 12 shall prioritize funds allocated for project code UNC/R&R21 for repairs and renovations
 13 pursuant to G.S. 143C-8-13 and, notwithstanding G.S. 143C-8-13(a), for projects listed in
 14 Section 40.1(d) of S.L. 2021-180. The cost for any single repair and renovation project other than
 15 those specifically listed in Section 40.1(d) of S.L. 2021-180 shall not exceed fifteen million
 16 dollars (\$15,000,000). The Board of Governors may reallocate funds in accordance with
 17 G.S. 143C-8-13(b) or to projects listed in Section 40.1(d) of S.L. 2021-180; provided, however,
 18 reallocation of funds intended for a project located at a particular constituent institution may only
 19 be reallocated for repairs and renovations projects at that particular constituent institution. The
 20 provisions of G.S. 143C-8-13(b)(4) shall not apply to the projects listed in Section 40.1(d) of
 21 S.L. 2021-180. The Board of Governors shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on
 22 Governmental Operations in accordance with G.S. 143C-8-13(b).

23 **SECTION 40.1.(d)** For project code R&R21, the provisions of Section 40.1(c) of
 24 S.L. 2021-180 shall apply to funds allocated for the project code during the 2023-2025 fiscal
 25 biennium.

26 **SECTION 40.1.(g)** For project code UNC/WIL23-1, notwithstanding
 27 G.S. 143C-4-5, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington is authorized to spend up to
 28 forty-four million five hundred thousand dollars (\$44,500,000) on the project but shall commit
 29 to providing funding of at least four million four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$4,450,000)
 30 from non-State sources on or before December 31, 2025, as a match for the intended State
 31 allocations totaling forty million fifty thousand dollars (\$40,050,000) for the project.

32 **SECTION 40.1.(h)** For project code UNC/WIL23-2, notwithstanding
 33 G.S. 143C-4-5, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington is authorized to spend up to
 34 twenty-four million dollars (\$24,000,000) on the project but shall commit to providing funding
 35 of at least two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) from non-State sources on or
 36 before December 31, 2025, as a match for the intended State allocations totaling twenty-one
 37 million six hundred thousand dollars (\$21,600,000) for the project.

38 **SECTION 40.1.(j)** For project code DST23-1, the Department of State Treasurer
 39 may use funds allocated for the project code to redeem or purchase and cancel bonds that have
 40 debt service paid from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund if (i) the cost of redeeming or
 41 purchasing and canceling those bonds is less than the estimated market value the bonds would
 42 have if not redeemed or purchased and canceled or (ii) the bonds were purchased by one or more
 43 of funds listed in G.S. 147-69.2(a) between May 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, in a principal
 44 amount not to exceed forty million dollars (\$40,000,000).

45 **SECTION 40.1.(l)** For project code WRC23-1, the Wildlife Resources Commission
 46 is authorized to spend up to twenty-nine million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$29,700,000)
 47 on the project but shall commit to providing funding of at least nineteen million seven hundred
 48 thousand dollars (\$19,700,000) in non-State funds from the Commission's endowment as a match
 49 to the intended State allocations totaling ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the project. The
 50 Commission shall use the endowment funds described in this subsection on the project prior to
 51 expending any State funds.

1 **SECTION 40.1.(m)** For project code DOA23-4, the Department of Administration
2 shall not demolish the structure sited at 216 W. Jones Street, at the corner of West Jones and
3 North Dawson streets in Raleigh, otherwise known as the Old Health Building, Building Asset
4 ID: 9806.

5 **SECTION 40.1.(n)** For project code DOA23-5, the Department of Administration
6 shall site the project on the parcel of real property identified with Wake County real estate ID#
7 0080466.

8 **SECTION 40.1.(o)** Section 40.1(h1) of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

9 **"SECTION 40.1.(h1)** For project code UNC/BOG21-1, The University of North Carolina
10 System Office shall enter into a lease agreement for space sufficient to relocate staff and
11 operations located in the City of Raleigh. The lease term shall be for no less than three years and
12 no more than ~~four~~ five years. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall
13 be responsible for selection and approval of all lease terms not otherwise specified in this
14 subsection. All staff and operations shall be relocated to the leased space on or before December
15 31, 2022."

16 **SECTION 40.1.(p)** Notwithstanding any provision of S.L. 2021-180, S.L. 2022-74,
17 or any other provision of law to the contrary, (i) for project code DOA22-1, the State Controller
18 shall transfer unspent and unencumbered funds allocated for the project to the State Capital and
19 Infrastructure Fund and (ii) for project code NCGA21-3, with the exception of forty million
20 dollars (\$40,000,000) to remain available to expend on the project, the State Controller shall
21 transfer all unspent and unencumbered funds to the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund. The
22 General Assembly intends to appropriate funds for these project codes in future fiscal years. This
23 subsection shall have no impact on the amounts authorized for these projects.

24 **SECTION 40.1.(q)** Notwithstanding the State Medical Facilities Plan, Article 9 of
25 Chapter 131E of the General Statutes, or any other provision of law to the contrary, the Katie
26 Blessing Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, shall be exempt from certificate of need review for
27 the construction of any behavioral health-related facilities or beds funded by the nonrecurring
28 grant allocated in this Part in the amount of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) for the
29 2023-2024 fiscal year, provided those facilities and beds shall be subject to existing licensure
30 laws and requirements.

31 **SECTION 40.1.(r)** Subsection (p) of this section becomes effective June 30, 2023.
32 The remainder of this section becomes effective July 1, 2023.

33 **SECTION 40.1.(s)** For project code TRAN23-1, the North Carolina Global
34 TransPark Authority (Authority) shall be considered the funded agency, pursuant to
35 G.S. 143-135.26(1), and, notwithstanding G.S. 143-341 or any other provision of law to the
36 contrary, shall have final authority over any aspect of the project. The Authority shall use up to
37 five million dollars (\$5,000,000) allocated in this Part for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for project
38 planning. The Office of State Budget and Management shall disburse additional funding that has
39 been allocated by the General Assembly for the project during the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium
40 and subsequent fiscal years contingent upon the Authority entering into an intergovernmental
41 services agreement with an agency of the United States for the use of the facility being
42 constructed under this project code. The Authority shall repay the total amount of three hundred
43 fifty million dollars (\$350,000,000) intended to be allocated from the State Capital and
44 Infrastructure Fund for the project in an amount of no less than fifteen million dollars
45 (\$15,000,000) annually, commencing on the first year the federal government agency takes
46 occupancy of the facility under the terms of the intergovernmental services agreement.
47 Reimbursement funds submitted by the Authority pursuant to this subsection shall be credited to
48 the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund.

49
50 **SIX-YEAR INTENDED PROJECT ALLOCATION SCHEDULE**

SECTION 40.2. It is the intent of the General Assembly to fund capital improvement projects on a cash flow basis and to plan for future project funding based upon projected availability in the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund. Nothing in this section shall be construed (i) to appropriate funds or (ii) as an obligation by the General Assembly to appropriate funds for the projects listed in future years. The following schedule lists capital improvement projects that will begin or be completed in fiscal years outside of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium and estimated amounts (in thousands) needed for completion of those projects:

Project Code	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	FY28-29
PERS21	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
UNC/R&R21	280,503	250,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
R&R21	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
DACS21-2	N/A	2,000	1,500	N/A	N/A	N/A
DACS21-4	N/A	1,850	1,500	N/A	N/A	N/A
DACS23-3	N/A	3,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	N/A
DEQ21-1	3,325	28,650	17,075	N/A	N/A	N/A
DNCR21-13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,000	15,000
DNCR23-1	3,000	3,000	30,000	24,000	N/A	N/A
DNCR23-7	2,000	7,721.24	7,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
DOA22-1	N/A	N/A	8,800	22,000	35,200	22,000
DOA22-3	N/A	21,000	N/A	24,000	N/A	N/A
DOA23-2	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750	N/A	N/A
DOA23-3	N/A	N/A	11,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
DOA23-4	N/A	N/A	15,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
DOA23-5	N/A	N/A	30,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
DAC23-1	4,776.39	9,607.8	9,607.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
DAC23-6	N/A	449	2,439	600	N/A	N/A
DPS21-6	N/A	836.88	2,658.75	N/A	N/A	N/A
DPS21-9	3,268.1	30,000	19,793.24	N/A	N/A	N/A
DPS23-1	N/A	600	10,000	29,850	N/A	N/A
DPS23-3	N/A	4,400	8,500	13,600	8,500	N/A
DPS23-7	3,706	11,069.5	11,069.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
DPS23-9	1,000	2,024.4	2,024.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
DPS23-11	2,028.5	5,927.25	5,927.25	N/A	N/A	N/A
NG23-2	1,500	6,000	5,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
TRAN23-1	50,000	125,000	125,000	50,000	N/A	N/A
NCGA21-3	20,000	135,000	145,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
NCGA23-1	N/A	N/A	60,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
WRC23-1	4,000	3,000	3,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
UNC/BOG21-1	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750	N/A	N/A
UNC/ASU21-1	N/A	7,500	7,500	N/A	N/A	N/A
UNC/ASU22-1	N/A	4,100	12,300	14,350	10,250	N/A
UNC/ASU23-1	N/A	1,800	6,300	9,900	N/A	N/A
UNC/CLT23-1	N/A	3,600	N/A	12,600	19,800	N/A
UNC/CH20-2	N/A	N/A	10,750	N/A	N/A	N/A
UNC/CH23-1	100,000	85,000	70,000	122,500	122,500	N/A
UNC/ECU21-1	N/A	20,000	84,007.3	85,742.72	N/A	N/A
UNC/ECU23-1	N/A	4,600	13,800	16,100	11,500	N/A
UNC/NCS20-1	N/A	6,025.2	22,224.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
UNC/PEM21-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36,400	22,750

1	UNC/PEM23-1	N/A	6,100	24,400	30,500	N/A	N/A
2	UNC/ECS21-4	N/A	15,827.27	4,172.73	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	UNC/ECS23-1	N/A	2,000	8,000	10,000	N/A	N/A
4	UNC/FSU21-2	N/A	36,376.1	6,573.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	UNC/FSU23-2	1,000	3,500	5,500	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	UNC/A&T23-1	970	3,395	5,335	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	UNC/NCC23-1	1,207.4	N/A	4,829.5	6,036.9	N/A	N/A
8	UNC/NCC23-2	N/A	1,299.94	N/A	4,549.8	7,149.68	N/A
9	UNC/NCC23-3	N/A	850	N/A	2,975	4,675	N/A
10	UNC/NCS23-1	N/A	3,000	27,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
11	UNC/SSM23-2	N/A	12,750	7,978.5	4,478.5	N/A	N/A
12	UNC/AVL23-1	2,615	6,537.5	11,767.5	5,230	N/A	N/A
13	UNC/GBO23-1	N/A	2,420	N/A	8,470	13,310	N/A
14	UNC/SA23-1	N/A	5,100	12,750	22,950	10,200	N/A
15	UNC/WIL23-1	N/A	4,005	10,012.5	16,020	10,012.5	N/A
16	UNC/WIL23-2	N/A	2,160	5,400	8,640	5,400	N/A
17	UNC/WIL23-3	N/A	1,215	4,860	6,075	N/A	N/A
18	UNC/WCU23-1	N/A	N/A	2,000	9,530	N/A	33,355
19	UNC/WSS21-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,800	14,250
20	UNC/WSS23-1	N/A	800	1,080	N/A	3,780	5,140
21	UNC/WSS23-2	N/A	800	1,600	N/A	5,600	8,000
22	UNC/PBS23-1	N/A	4,950	N/A	17,325	27,225	N/A

NON-GENERAL FUND/NON-SCIF CAPITAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS

SECTION 40.4.(a) The General Assembly authorizes the following capital projects to be funded with receipts or from other non-General Fund and non-State Capital and Infrastructure Fund sources available to the appropriate department:

Name of Project	Amount of Non-General Fund/Non-SCIF Funding Authorized	
	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources		
Brunswick Town State Historic Site–		
Historical Restorations	\$150,000	\$0
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services		
Arena and Barn Replacement	1,900,000	0
State Fair Lunch Facility Renovation	25,500,000	0
State Fair Gate 8 Restroom Renovation	1,500,000	0
Equipment Shelters Replacement	0	300,000
Department of Public Safety		
Alcoholic Beverage Control–		
Warehouse Precast Repair	275,000	0
ABC New Campus–Advanced Planning	4,700,000	0
Department of Adult Correction		
Old Craggy Laundry Wastewater/Stormwater Repl.	742,000	0
Wildlife Resources Commission		
Land Acquisition	5,000,000	5,000,000
Game Land Improvements	2,000,000	0
Caswell Depot Expansion	2,460,000	0
Mills River Equipment Storage	355,000	0
Morganton Depot Equipment Storage	340,000	0

1	Rhems Depot Equipment Storage	415,000	0
2	Troy Depot Office/Shop & Storage	1,900,000	0
3	Shooting Range Office & Classroom Constr.	3,100,000	0
4	Mount Holly Depot	0	2,400,000
5	Marion Aquaculture Building	0	600,000
6			
7	TOTAL AMOUNT OF NON-GENERAL		
8	FUND/NON-SCIF CAPITAL PROJECTS		
9	AUTHORIZED	\$50,337,000	\$8,300,000

11 **SECTION 40.4.(b)** From funds deposited with the State Treasurer in a capital
 12 improvement account to the credit of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 13 pursuant to G.S. 146-30, the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the 2023-2024
 14 fiscal year and the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year
 15 shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to be used,
 16 notwithstanding G.S. 146-30, by the Department for its plant conservation program under Article
 17 19B of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes for costs incidental to the acquisition of land, such as
 18 land appraisals, land surveys, title searches, and environmental studies, and for the management
 19 of the plant conservation program preserves owned by the Department.

21 **VARIOUS CAPITAL CHANGES**

22 **SECTION 40.5.(a)** G.S. 143C-8-10 is repealed.

23 **SECTION 40.5.(b)** G.S. 143C-8-11 reads as rewritten:

24 **"§ 143C-8-11. Reversion of appropriation; lapse of project authorization; transfer of funds**
 25 **remaining after project completion.**

26 (a) Reversion of Appropriation. – A State agency shall begin the planning of or the
 27 construction of an authorized capital improvement project during the fiscal year in which the
 28 funds are appropriated. If it does not, the Director may credit the appropriation to the ~~Project~~
 29 ~~Reserve Account, State Capital and Infrastructure Fund,~~ unless otherwise required by law. ~~If the~~
 30 ~~Director does not credit the appropriation to the Project Reserve Account, the appropriation shall~~
 31 ~~revert to the principal fund from which it was appropriated.~~ The Director may, for good cause,
 32 allow a State agency to take up to an additional 12 months to take the actions required by this
 33 subsection.

34 (b) Lapse of Project Authorization. – Authorizations for capital improvement projects
 35 shall lapse if any of the following occur: (i) the appropriation for a capital improvement project
 36 reverts, (ii) the construction of a project does not begin during the first two fiscal years in which
 37 funds are appropriated, or (iii) the Director redirects funds appropriated for a capital improvement
 38 project in accordance with G.S. 143C-6-2. The Director may, for good cause, allow a State
 39 agency to take up to an additional 12 months to begin construction of a project; however, if the
 40 Director approves an extension of time under this subsection and construction of the project has
 41 not begun by the end of the extension, the authorization for the project shall lapse.

42 (c) Funds Remaining After Project Completion. – The State Controller shall transfer any
 43 balance of State funds appropriated for a capital project that remains unspent and unencumbered
 44 two years after completion of the project in accordance with this section. If applicable law
 45 requires a particular disposition of the funds, then the transfer shall be made in accordance with
 46 that requirement. Otherwise, the ~~transfer shall be made in accordance with the following~~
 47 ~~requirements:~~

48 (1) ~~If the funds were initially allocated from the Reserve for Repairs and~~
 49 ~~Renovations, then the funds shall be transferred to that Reserve.~~

(2) ~~All other funds balance~~ shall be transferred to the ~~Project Reserve Account State Capital and Infrastructure Fund~~ created by ~~G.S. 143C-8-10.G.S. 143C-4-3.1."~~

SECTION 40.5.(c) G.S. 143C-4-3.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143C-4-3.1. State Capital and Infrastructure Fund.

...

(g) Unexpended Funds. – Funds appropriated for a project that are unspent and unencumbered upon completion of the project shall revert to the Fund. For the purposes of this subsection, a project includes any allocation from the Fund to a State agency or The University of North Carolina.

...."

SECTION 40.5.(d) Section 40.6(g)(3) of S.L. 2022-74 reads as rewritten:

"(3) Third, to be deposited into the ~~Downtown Government Complex Reserve, established in Section 2.2 of this act.~~State Capital and Infrastructure Fund."

SECTION 40.5.(e) Section 40.3(f) of S.L. 2021-180, as enacted by Section 18.2 of S.L. 2022-6, reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 40.3.(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, there shall be no local match required for the North Topsail Beach Shoreline Protection – Phases 1–4 project referenced in ~~subsection (b)~~subsection (c) of this section."

SECTION 40.5.(f) Section 9.3 of S.L. 2023-11 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 9.3-9.3.(a) Subdivision (65) of Section 40.17(a) of S.L. 2021-180, as enacted by Section 40.2(a) of S.L. 2022-74, reads as rewritten:

"(65) The funds for Ball's Creek Camp Ground in the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the 2021-2022 fiscal year shall instead be provided to Ball's Creek Campground History & Learning Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, to be used for repairs and renovations to Ball's Creek Camp Ground."

"SECTION 9.3.(b) Section 40.2 of S.L. 2022-74 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"SECTION 40.2.(i) Notwithstanding any provision of law or the Committee Report referenced in Section 43.2 of this act to the contrary, the allocation of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund to Ball's Creek Campground for capital improvements or equipment shall instead be provided to Ball's Creek Campground History & Learning Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for capital improvements or equipment."

SECTION 40.5.(g) Part 24 of S.L. 2022-74 is amended by adding a new section to read:

"REPEAL GRANT ALLOCATION

"SECTION 24.5. Notwithstanding any provision of law or the Committee Report referenced in Section 43.2 of this act to the contrary, the directed grant in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2022-2023 fiscal year shall not be provided to Ace Speedway Racing, Ltd., and the funds shall revert."

SECTION 40.5.(h) The State Controller shall transfer all funds remaining in (i) the Government Complex Reserve established in Section 2.2(r) of S.L. 2022-74 and (ii) the Capital Project Inflationary Reserve established in Section 40.7 of S.L. 2022-74 to the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund.

SECTION 40.5.(i) Section 2.2(r) and Section 40.7 of S.L. 2022-74 are repealed.

SECTION 40.5.(j) Section 40.17(a)(55) of S.L. 2021-180, as enacted by Section 9.1(d) of S.L. 2021-189 and amended by Section 18.1 of S.L. 2022-6, reads as rewritten:

"(55) The funds for Nikwasi Town Cherokee Settlement in the sum of seven hundred thirteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$713,400) for the 2021-2022

fiscal year and the funds for Watauga Town Cherokee Settlement in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2021-2022 fiscal year shall instead be provided as follows:

a. ~~A grant in the sum of six-eight hundred thirteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$600,000)-(\$813,400) to Mainspring Conservation Trust, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the purchase of approximately 0.6 acres at the site of land acquisition at the Cherokee settlement of Nikwasi Town in the Town of Franklin in Macon County with a conservation and preservation easement to be held by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and Watauga Town Cherokee mound sites.~~

b. ~~A grant in the sum of one hundred thirteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$113,400) to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for the purchase of a conservation and preservation easement of approximately 0.7 acres at the site of the Cherokee settlement of Nikwasi Town in the Town of Franklin in Macon County."~~

GRANTS TO NON-STATE ENTITIES

SECTION 40.7. Requirements. – For purposes of this Part, nonrecurring funds allocated from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund as grants to non-State entities, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1(d), are subject to all of the following requirements:

- (1) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this act, each State agency administering grants shall begin disbursement of funds to each grantee non-State entity when all applicable requirements are met. However, disbursement of grant funds allocated for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall commence no later than 100 days after the date this act becomes law, and disbursement in full to all grantees shall be completed no later than nine months after the date this act becomes law. Disbursement of grants allocated for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be completed no later than 100 days after the beginning of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- (2) G.S. 143C-6-23(b) through (f) and (f2) through (k) apply to the grants.
- (3) Notwithstanding any provision of G.S. 143C-1-2(b) to the contrary, unless otherwise indicated, nonrecurring funds appropriated in this Part as grants shall not revert until expended or the particular project has been completed.
- (4) Grants to each grantee non-State entity shall be used for nonsectarian, nonreligious purposes only.
- (5) By January 1, 2024, and then quarterly thereafter, the Office of State Budget and Management shall report to the Fiscal Research Division on the schedule for and status of grant disbursement. At a minimum, the report shall include the following for each grant:
 - a. The date when the disbursing agency issued the initial contract.
 - b. The date when the contract was sent to the grantee non-State entity.
 - c. The date when the fully executed contract was returned to the disbursing agency.
 - d. The date when the contract was executed.
 - e. The date when a grant was disbursed in full.

PART XLI. TRANSPORTATION

CASH FLOW HIGHWAY FUND AND HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

1 **SECTION 41.1.(a)** Subsections (b) and (c) of Section 41.1 of S.L. 2022-74 are
 2 repealed.

3 **SECTION 41.1.(b)** The General Assembly authorizes and certifies anticipated
 4 revenues for the Highway Fund as follows:

5	For Fiscal Year 2025-2026	\$3,170.2 million
6	For Fiscal Year 2026-2027	\$3,216.9 million
7	For Fiscal Year 2027-2028	\$3,265.1 million
8	For Fiscal Year 2028-2029	\$3,382.0 million
9	For Fiscal Year 2029-2030	\$3,436.4 million

10 **SECTION 41.1.(c)** The General Assembly authorizes and certifies anticipated
 11 revenues for the Highway Trust Fund as follows:

12	For Fiscal Year 2025-2026	\$2,487.2 million
13	For Fiscal Year 2026-2027	\$2,514.8 million
14	For Fiscal Year 2027-2028	\$2,652.8 million
15	For Fiscal Year 2028-2029	\$2,728.1 million
16	For Fiscal Year 2029-2030	\$2,771.7 million

17 **SECTION 41.1.(d)** The Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the
 18 Office of State Budget and Management, shall develop a five-year revenue forecast. The
 19 five-year revenue forecast developed under this subsection shall be used (i) to develop the
 20 five-year cash flow estimates included in the biennial budgets, (ii) to develop the Strategic
 21 Transportation Improvement Program, and (iii) by the Department of the State Treasurer to
 22 compute transportation debt capacity.

23
 24 **CONTINGENCY FUNDS**

25 **SECTION 41.2.(a)** The funds appropriated in this act to the Department of
 26 Transportation, Construction – Contingency Fund Code for the 2023-2024 fiscal year shall be
 27 allocated statewide for rural or small urban highway improvements and related transportation
 28 enhancements to public roads and public facilities, industrial access roads, railroad infrastructure,
 29 and spot safety projects, including pedestrian walkways that enhance highway safety. Projects
 30 funded pursuant to this subsection require prior approval by the Secretary of Transportation.
 31 Funds allocated under this subsection shall not revert at the end of the applicable fiscal year but
 32 shall remain available until expended. The use of funds that do not revert under this subsection
 33 is not restricted to the fiscal year in which the funds were allocated.

34 **SECTION 41.2.(b)** The Department of Transportation shall report to the members
 35 of the General Assembly on projects funded pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in each
 36 member's district prior to construction. The Department shall make a quarterly comprehensive
 37 report on the use of these funds to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and
 38 the Fiscal Research Division.

39
 40 **CAPITAL AND RENOVATIONS**

41 **SECTION 41.3.** For the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the funds appropriated in this
 42 act from the Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation for capital and renovations shall
 43 be used as follows:

45	Item	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
46	Avery Maintenance Engineer Office	2,628,000	
47	Cherry Branch Shore Power	2,104,000	
48	Clay Maintenance Engineer Office and Equipment Shop	261,354	
49	Hyde Maintenance Office and Equipment Shop	2,485,045	
50	Iredell Maintenance Engineer and		
51	Bridge Maintenance Office	1,628,865	

1	Replace Rooftop HVAC Units – Century Center	649,500
2	Rowan District Engineer Office	627,426
3	Surry District Engineer Office	1,231,450
4	Watauga District Engineer Office	1,070,041
5		
6	Total	\$12,685,681

POWELL BILL FUNDS

SECTION 41.5. For the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium:

- (1) The Department of Transportation shall not reduce the funds appropriated under this act to the State Aid – Powell Bill Fund for allocation under the Powell Bill (G.S. 136-41.1 through G.S. 136-41.4).
- (2) Notwithstanding G.S. 136-41.1(a), eligible municipalities with a population of 400,000 or more shall receive the same amount of Powell Bill Program funds allocated for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The remaining Powell Bill Program funds shall be allocated to municipalities with a population of less than 400,000 in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 136-41.1(a).

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DIVISION POSITIONS

SECTION 41.6.(a) Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Transportation, Facilities Maintenance Division (FMD), the Department shall create 14 full-time equivalent (FTE) Maintenance and Construction Tech III positions (FMD positions). The FMD positions shall be assigned to the 14 local highway division offices and integrated into the current FMD organizational structure set up for regional maintenance of the Division of Motor Vehicles offices. The FMD positions shall be responsible for building inspections, maintenance, repairs and support for State-owned buildings, and management of contracts necessary to complete tasks. Operational funds based on needs shall be allotted by the FMD main office for support of the local highway divisions and district. The FMD shall submit a report on the implementation status of this section by October 1, 2023, and May 1, 2024, to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Senate Appropriations Committee on the Department of Transportation, Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee (JLTOC), and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the status of creating and filling positions, lease of trucks, purchase of rolling stock and other supplies, and methodology for allocation of operational funds for the local highway divisions and amount of funds spent. The FMD shall include a needs assessment for additional staffing and funding for routine building maintenance activities.

SECTION 41.6.(b) By August 1 of each year, the Facilities Maintenance Division shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee (JLTOC) and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the following information:

- (1) Capital projects status to include each project undertaken, amount of funds expended, and planned completion and, if additional appropriations are required, include amount needed for completion of the project.
- (2) Information on the contract, including whether the Department of Administration administered the contract and whether the contract was managed by DOT.
- (3) Update of building replacement schedules for upcoming budget planning.

AED REPORT

SECTION 41.6A. By March 1, 2024, the Department of Transportation shall submit a report to the House Appropriations Committee on Transportation, the Senate Appropriations Committee on the Department of Transportation, and the Fiscal Research Division on the status

1 of purchase and installation of the automated external defibrillator (AED) devices. The report
2 shall include the number of AED devices purchased, location and building purpose of
3 installation, number of replacement AED devices, amount of credit or rebate applied toward new
4 purchases, and total amount spent for purchase and installation of AED devices.

6 ROAD AND BRIDGE NAMING

7 **SECTION 41.7.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
8 Department of Transportation shall designate as follows:

- 9 (1) A section of Interstate 40 in Catawba County named in honor of Cherie Killian
10 Berry, the first female Commissioner of Labor in North Carolina.
- 11 (2) The bridge on U.S. Highway 74 that crosses over the Catawba River at the
12 Mecklenburg County and Gaston County line and is numbered 350091 by the
13 Department as the "Representative Dana B. Bumgardner Bridge."
- 14 (3) A bridge to be constructed on Interstate Highway 77 southbound that crosses
15 over Interstate Highway 40 in Statesville as the "Sheriff Godfrey "Click"
16 Kimball Bridge."
- 17 (4) The bridges on U.S. Highway 1 that cross over North Carolina Highway 2 in
18 Moore County as the "George Little Bridges."
- 19 (5) The bridge on North Carolina Highway 49 that crosses over the Tuckertown
20 Reservoir in Davidson County as the "Senator Stan Bingham Bridge."

22 INCREASE CAP ON CERTAIN PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

23 **SECTION 41.9A.** G.S. 136-18 reads as rewritten:

24 "§ 136-18. Powers of Department of Transportation.

25 The Department of Transportation has the following powers:

26 ...

- 27 (39a) a. The Department of Transportation ~~or Turnpike Authority, as~~
28 ~~applicable, and Turnpike Authority~~ may enter into up to three
29 agreements each with a private entity as provided under subdivision
30 (39) of this section for which the provisions of this section apply.

31"

33 CLARIFY FERRY OPERATING BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

34 **SECTION 41.11.** Section 41.15A of S.L. 2021-180 is amended by adding the
35 following new subsections to read:

36 "**SECTION 41.15A.(c)** Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the
37 Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of this act, and any other provision of law, the
38 Department of Transportation may maintain field, program, administrative, or any other fund
39 codes it determines to be necessary within its internal SAP accounting system to implement this
40 section. The Department shall combine these internal fund codes to show only Fund Code 7825
41 for Ferry Operations in the North Carolina Accounting System and North Carolina Financial
42 System and any successor accounting systems. To the extent practicable, the Department shall
43 combine these internal fund codes to show only Fund Code 7825 in reports required by the
44 General Assembly and any other public reports.

45 "**SECTION 41.15A.(d)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Office of State
46 Budget and Management may make changes to the Integrated Budget Information System, North
47 Carolina Accounting System, North Carolina Financial System, or any successor systems to
48 those listed to comply with this section."

50 FERRY VESSEL REPLACEMENT PLAN

1 **SECTION 41.11A.(a)** Plan. – The Ferry Division of the Department of
 2 Transportation shall develop a plan for replacing its fleet. The plan shall identify each vessel
 3 owned by the Department of Transportation at the time of publication of the report and, in
 4 addition, include all of the following information:

- 5 (1) The date each vessel entered service.
- 6 (2) The routes and division served by each vessel.
- 7 (3) An assessment of the condition of each vessel.
- 8 (4) The estimated remaining service life of each vessel.
- 9 (5) A schedule for replacing each vessel that includes all of the following:
 - 10 a. A rank order prioritization of vessel replacement that includes the
 - 11 estimated replacement date for each vessel.
 - 12 b. The class of vessel each vessel currently in service will be replaced
 - 13 with.
 - 14 c. The costs the Division will incur to replace each vessel.
- 15 (6) Any funds dedicated or identified for replacing vessels, including the amount
- 16 and source of the funds.
- 17 (7) A list of potential interventions, if any, that could extend the life of each vessel
- 18 currently in service. This list shall include (i) the cost of the intervention and
- 19 (ii) the additional extended life the intervention would provide for the vessel.

20 The Division shall submit this plan to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight
 21 Committee, the chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Appropriations Committees, and
 22 the Fiscal Research Division no later than March 1, 2024.

23 **SECTION 41.11A.(b)** Effective Date. – This section is effective when it becomes
 24 law.

25 **FERRY MAINTENANCE REPORT**

26 **SECTION 41.11B.(a)** The Ferry Division of the Department of Transportation shall
 27 report on the use of funds appropriated for marine and facilities maintenance for each year of the
 28 2023-2025 fiscal biennium. The report shall include all of the following:

- 29 (1) The projects on which the funds were used.
- 30 (2) The amount of funds used for each project.
- 31 (3) Whether the work on the project was performed by a contractor or by the
- 32 Division.
- 33 (4) For all work performed by a contractor, the name of the contracting company.

34 **SECTION 41.11B.(b)** The Division shall submit this report to the chairs of the Joint
 35 Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, the chairs of the House and Senate
 36 Transportation Appropriations Committees, and the Fiscal Research Division on June 30, 2024,
 37 and June 30, 2025.

38 **AUTHORIZE TOLLING ON ALL FERRY ROUTES**

39 **SECTION 41.11C.(a)** G.S. 136-82 reads as rewritten:

40 "**§ 136-82. Department of Transportation to establish and maintain ferries.**

41 ...

42 (b) Tolling of ~~Certain~~ Ferry Routes. – The Board of Transportation shall establish tolls
 43 on the ~~passenger-only Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry route. The Board of Transportation shall continue~~
 44 ~~tolling the following ferry routes:~~ all ferry routes.

- 45 (1) ~~Southport-Fort Fisher.~~
- 46 (2) ~~Cedar Island-Ocracoke.~~
- 47 (3) ~~Swan Quarter-Ocracoke.~~

1 (b1) ~~Untolled Ferry Routes.—Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, ferry~~
2 ~~routes are exempt from tolls. The Board of Transportation shall not establish tolls on a ferry route~~
3 ~~exempt from tolls.~~

4 ...

5 (f4) Commuter Pass. – The Board of Transportation shall authorize the sale of an annual
6 commuter pass for all tolled ferry routes.

7"

8 **SECTION 41.11C.(b)** For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the cost of a commuter pass
9 under G.S. 136-82(f4), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section, shall be set at the same rate
10 in effect on the effective date of this act.

11 **AUTHORIZE CARRYFORWARD OF FERRY FUNDS**

12 **SECTION 41.11D.** G.S. 136-82(h) reads as rewritten:

13 "(h) Transfer of Funds. – Notwithstanding G.S. 136-44.2(f), G.S. 136-44.2(f1), and any
14 other provision of law to the contrary, beginning with the 2021-2022 fiscal year, no later than 45
15 days after the first day of the fiscal year, the Department of Transportation shall transfer from the
16 Highway Fund to the Ferry Systemwide fund code within the Ferry Capital Special Fund all
17 ~~unexpended unallotted and unencumbered~~ funds appropriated to the Ferry Division's budget from
18 the prior fiscal year. ~~Any funds categorized as unencumbered shall be deposited in the Ferry~~
19 ~~Systemwide fund code. Any funds categorized as encumbered shall be deposited into a specified~~
20 ~~fund code for encumbrances."~~

21 **STUDY INCREASING FERRY DIVISION'S CAPACITY FOR VESSEL** 22 **MAINTENANCE**

23 **SECTION 41.11E.(a)** Study. – The Ferry Division of the Department of
24 Transportation shall study increasing its in-house capacity for vessel maintenance, including
25 maintenance related to credit dry-dock examinations required by the United States Coast Guard.
26 This study shall include all of the following:

- 27 (1) An evaluation of all of the following options for increasing in-house capacity
28 for vessel maintenance:
- 29 a. Expanding berths and staffing at Manns Harbor.
 - 30 b. Using existing State-owned properties for dry-dock availability.
 - 31 c. Purchasing or leasing additional property elsewhere along the North
32 Carolina coast. The evaluation of this option shall include the
33 identification of specific sites or regions where potential additional
34 shipyard capacity may be found and whether the local population of
35 that site or region possesses sufficient skilled labor to support vessel
36 maintenance.
 - 37 d. Any other option that could potentially increase in-house capacity for
38 vessel maintenance.
- 39 (2) For each option evaluated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
40 Division shall assess both of the following:
- 41 a. The total costs the Division will incur for each option.
 - 42 b. The steps that would be necessary to implement each option and a
43 proposed time line for implementation.
- 44 (3) An assessment of whether the presence of skilled employment in the local
45 population is sufficient to support vessel maintenance.

46 The Division shall report the findings of this study, including any legislative recommendations,
47 to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, the chairs of the House
48 and Senate Transportation Appropriations Committees, and the Fiscal Research Division no later
49 than March 1, 2024.
50
51

1 **SECTION 41.11E.(b)** Effective Date. – This section is effective when it becomes
2 law.

3 4 **S-LINE ANNUAL REPORT**

5 **SECTION 41.12.** Beginning October 1, 2023, the Department of Transportation,
6 Rail Division, shall report annually on the status of the S-Line rail corridor reconstruction project
7 between Raleigh and Ridgeway to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and
8 the Fiscal Research Division. This report shall include the status of the acquisition of the project;
9 the total allocations of any funds to the project and their source, including Highway Fund,
10 Highway Trust Fund, and federal funds; and the amount of funds disbursed, including the
11 recipients of those funds. The report shall include any details of lease agreements made with any
12 property owners along the corridor after acquisition is completed. The report shall include an
13 estimated time line, or dates of work completed, of the major project phases, including
14 acquisition, preconstruction, construction, and project closeout. The report shall show the amount
15 of federal funds associated with each State appropriation for the project and detail the award or
16 awards associated with that appropriation.

17 18 **PASSENGER RAIL FLEET PLAN AND COST ESTIMATES**

19 **SECTION 41.13.** The Department of Transportation, Rail Division, shall submit a
20 report on its passenger rail fleet plan to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee
21 (JLTOC) and the Fiscal Research Division by December 31, 2023. The report shall include all
22 of the following information regarding new passenger rail rolling stock:

- 23 (1) The source of funds for purchasing the new passenger rail rolling stock.
- 24 (2) The cost to purchase the new passenger rail rolling stock.
- 25 (3) The delivery time line for the new passenger rail rolling stock.
- 26 (4) The expected annual cost for maintenance and contractor services for the new
27 passenger rail rolling stock.
- 28 (5) The annual total cost for the existing passenger rail fleet.
- 29 (6) A comparison of the annual total cost for the existing passenger rail fleet to the
30 expected annual total cost for the new passenger rail rolling stock.

31 32 **OSBM TO CERTIFY RAIL & INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION BUDGETS**

33 **SECTION 41.13A.(a)** The Director of the Office of State Budget and Management
34 (OSBM), in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Transportation,
35 shall certify for Fund Codes 7829 and 7831 line item expenditure accounts in the major account
36 groups per the State Budget Manual and the Office of the State Controller's Chart of Accounts
37 as appropriated by the General Assembly.

38 **SECTION 41.13A.(b)** Positions in Fund Codes 7829 and 7831 shall be budgeted to
39 the Personal Services major account group and shall not be budgeted to agency receipts.

40 **SECTION 41.13A.(c)** Fund Codes 0035, 0036, 0037, 7705, and 7845 are eliminated.

41 **SECTION 41.13A.(d)** Fund Code 7831 shall be renamed "Integrated Mobility
42 Division."

43 **SECTION 41.13A.(e)** Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section,
44 the Department of Transportation may maintain field, program, administrative, or any other fund
45 codes it determines to be necessary within its internal SAP accounting system to implement this
46 section. The Department shall combine these internal fund codes to show only Fund Codes 7829
47 and 7831, for Rail and Integrated Mobility Division, respectively, in the North Carolina
48 Accounting System and North Carolina Financial System and any successor accounting systems.
49 To the extent practicable, the Department shall combine these internal fund codes to show only
50 Fund Codes 7829 and 7831 in reports required by the General Assembly and any other public
51 reports.

1 **SECTION 41.13A.(f)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Office of
2 State Budget and Management may make changes to the Integrated Budget Information System,
3 North Carolina Accounting System, North Carolina Financial System, or any successor systems
4 to those listed to comply with this section.

5 **SECTION 41.13A.(g)** G.S. 136-44.2(f1)(2) reads as rewritten:

6 "(2) The unallotted and unencumbered balances on the last day of the fiscal year
7 for the following:

8 a. Funds appropriated from the Highway Fund for the multimodal aid
9 and public assistance programs of the Department, consisting of funds
10 for bicycle and pedestrian, railroad, aviation, and public transportation
11 programs, excluding funds deposited in the Freight Rail & Rail
12 Crossing Safety Improvement Fund.

13 b. Funds appropriated from the Highway Fund for the construction
14 programs of the Department, consisting of funds for secondary
15 construction, access and public service roads, spot safety
16 improvement, small urban construction, and economic development
17 programs."

18 19 **STUDY ON DMV MAIL FLOW AND ROUTING**

20 **SECTION 41.14A.(a)** Study. – The Division of Motor Vehicles of the North
21 Carolina Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Administration,
22 shall study the flow and routing of mail related to the Division's provision of services and other
23 business. The study shall consider all of the following:

- 24 (1) The legislative and administrative rule requirements that currently control the
25 Division's flow and routing of mail.
- 26 (2) The effect that routing incoming mail destined for the Division's Rocky Mount
27 office through the Division's Raleigh office has on the Division's provision of
28 services and other business.
- 29 (3) The current routing and flow of outgoing mail the Division uses to (i) provide
30 vehicle services, (ii) issue drivers licenses, and (iii) conduct other business.
- 31 (4) The current costs, including transportation costs, associated with mail service
32 between the Division's Raleigh and Rocky Mount offices.
- 33 (5) The processing time for the Division's outgoing mail that is routed through the
34 Division's Raleigh office.
- 35 (6) Potential new mail routing options that would increase efficiency and reduce
36 costs.
- 37 (7) Potential new routing for mail services that originate and terminate at the
38 Division's Rocky Mount office.
- 39 (8) Any cost-saving measures the Division could implement to realize cost
40 savings with respect to its flow and routing of mail.
- 41 (9) Any legislative changes necessary to implement a more efficient and
42 cost-effective routing of the Division's mail.
- 43 (10) The impact any potential change to the Division's mail flow and routing would
44 have on the Department of Administration's provision of mail services to State
45 agencies under G.S. 143-341.

46 The Division shall report the findings of this study, including any legislative recommendations,
47 to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, the chairs of the House
48 and Senate Transportation Appropriations Committees, the chairs of the House and Senate
49 General Government Appropriations Committees, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than
50 November 1, 2023.

1 **SECTION 41.14A.(b)** Effective Date. – This section is effective when it becomes
2 law.

3
4 **HUNTERSVILLE DMV VEHICLE SERVICES OFFICE**

5 **SECTION 41.14B.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the full-time
6 equivalent (FTE) positions assigned to the Division of Motor Vehicles of the North Carolina
7 Department of Transportation, the Department shall reclassify four FTEs to be assigned for the
8 creation of a vehicles services office at the Division's Huntersville location. The Division shall
9 report on the status of the office's creation to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation
10 Oversight Committee, the chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Appropriations
11 Committees, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than October 1, 2023.

12
13 **DMV PRIVATIZATION STUDY**

14 **SECTION 41.14C.(a)** Intent. – The General Assembly finds that the further
15 privatization and modernization of services provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles of the
16 North Carolina Department of Transportation, beyond those services already provided by
17 commission contractors under G.S. 20-63(h), would provide a more citizen-friendly service
18 model for the taxpayers of the State. Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly to study
19 viability and feasibility of further privatizing and modernizing the Division or its component
20 parts.

21 **SECTION 41.14C.(b)** Request for Proposal. – The Legislative Service Officer
22 (LSO), in conjunction with the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee (JLTOC),
23 shall issue a Request for Proposals and select a consultant to study the feasibility and advisability
24 of further privatizing and modernizing the Division.

25 **SECTION 41.14C.(c)** Study. – The consultant selected by the LSO and JLTOC shall
26 study the feasibility and desirability of further privatizing the Division. The study shall consider
27 all of the following:

- 28 (1) Potential improvements to the services provided by the Division that could be
29 achieved through further privatization.
- 30 (2) How further privatization of the Division would interact with the current use
31 of commission contractors under G.S. 20-63(h).
- 32 (3) Any legislation or rulemaking necessary to enact further privatization.
- 33 (4) Reliable economic data on the financial impact of further privatization.
- 34 (5) Potential strategies and frameworks for transitioning the Division into further
35 privatization.
- 36 (6) How the State would maintain effective oversight as its direct role in the
37 delivery of services is reduced through further privatization.
- 38 (7) The market interest of qualified vendors in assuming responsibility for
39 services currently provided by the Division.
- 40 (8) Potential methods for selecting vendors or contractors if further privatization
41 is enacted.
- 42 (9) Any modernization efforts, other than privatization, that would improve the
43 Division's provision of services.

44 **SECTION 41.14C.(d)** Time Line. – The LSO and JLTOC shall issue an RFP for the
45 study by September 1, 2023, and select a consultant by November 1, 2023. The consultant shall
46 report the findings of this study, including any legislative recommendations, to the chairs of the
47 JLTOC, the chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Appropriations Committees, and the
48 Fiscal Research Division no later than March 1, 2024.

49 **SECTION 41.14C.(e)** Transfer of Funds. – Of the funds appropriated from the
50 Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation, the Department shall transfer one hundred
51 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) to the General Assembly to select and retain a consultant

1 to conduct the study required by subsection (b) of this section. Funds allocated by this subsection
2 shall remain available until the conclusion of the study, and any funds unused at that time shall
3 revert to the Highway Fund.

4 **SECTION 41.14C.(f)** Effective Date. – This section is effective when it becomes
5 law.

7 **INCREASE ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLE FEES**

8 **SECTION 41.14D.(a)** G.S. 20-87 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 20-87. Passenger vehicle registration fees.**

10 These fees shall be paid to the Division annually for the registration and licensing of
11 passenger vehicles, according to the following classifications and schedules:

12 ...

13 (13) Additional fee for certain electric vehicles. – At the time of an initial
14 registration or registration renewal, the owner of a plug-in electric vehicle that
15 is not a low-speed vehicle and that does not rely on a nonelectric source of
16 power shall pay a fee in the amount of ~~one hundred forty dollars and~~
17 ~~twenty five cents (\$140.25)~~ one hundred eighty dollars (\$180.00) in addition
18 to any other required registration fees.

19 (13a) Additional fee for plug-in hybrid vehicles. – At the time of an initial
20 registration or registration renewal, the owner of a plug-in hybrid vehicle shall
21 pay a fee in the amount of ninety dollars (\$90.00) in addition to any other
22 required registration fees.

23"

24 **SECTION 41.14D.(b)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2024, and applies
25 to vehicles registered on or after that date.

27 **AUTHORIZE DMV TO IMPLEMENT TRANSACTION FEES ON ELECTRONIC** 28 **PAYMENTS**

29 **SECTION 41.14E.(a)** The Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of
30 Transportation shall develop a plan for adding a fee to transactions where it accepts electronic
31 payment, as that term is defined in G.S. 147-86.20, to offset any service charge the Division pays
32 for electronic payment service. The plan shall do both of the following:

- 33 (1) Determine the processes the Division will use to implement an electronic
34 payment transaction fee.
- 35 (2) Determine the percentage transaction fee necessary to impose on parties using
36 electronic payment to offset any service charges the Division pays.
- 37 (3) Estimate the costs the Division would incur implementing the changes
38 required by the plan, if any.
- 39 (4) Estimate the cost-savings the Division will realize by charging an electronic
40 payment transaction fee.

41 The Division shall submit this plan to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight
42 Committee, the chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Appropriations Committees, and
43 the Fiscal Research Division no later than January 1, 2024.

44 **SECTION 41.14E.(b)** Article 1 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by
45 adding a new section to read:

46 **"§ 20-4.05. Authority of Division to charge transaction fee on electronic payments.**

47 When the Division accepts electronic payment, as that term is defined in G.S. 147-86.20, for
48 any cost, fee, fine, or penalty imposed pursuant to this Chapter, the Division may add a
49 transaction fee to each electronic payment transaction to offset the service charge the Division
50 pays for electronic payment service. The Division's transaction fee shall not exceed two percent
51 (2%) of the electronic payment."

1 **SECTION 41.14E.(c)** The Office of State Budget and Management shall add
2 receipts to the base budget for transaction fees to be collected through electronic payments
3 pursuant to G.S. 20-4.05 and adjust the receipts for fiscal year 2024-2025.

4 **SECTION 41.14E.(d)** Subsection (a) of this section is effective when it becomes
5 law. The remainder of this section becomes effective July 1, 2024.

6 7 **SPECIAL PERMITS FOR THE TRANSPORT AND DELIVERY OF STORAGE SHEDS**

8 **SECTION 41.14F.(a)** G.S. 20-119 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 20-119. Special permits for vehicles of excessive size or weight; fees.**

10 ...

11 (b3) The Department shall issue single trip permits for transport and delivery of storage
12 sheds carried on trailers with a maximum width of 16 feet. The Department shall promulgate
13 rules that set the days allowed for transport and delivery, times of day transport or delivery may
14 occur, the display and use of banners and escort vehicles for public safety purposes, and any
15 other reasonable rules as are necessary to promote public safety and commerce. For the purposes
16 of this subsection, storage shed means any accessory structure, either freestanding or attached to
17 another structure, that is not classified for human habitation or occupancy and is intended to be
18 used to store personal property.

19 (b4) For a special permit issued under this section for the transport and delivery of cargo,
20 containers, or other equipment, the Department may allow travel after sunset if the Department
21 determines it will be safe and expedite traffic flow. The Department shall not include a term or
22 condition prohibiting travel after sunset for any permitted shipments going to or from
23 international ports. Nothing in this subsection precludes the Department from restricting
24 movements it determines to be unsafe.

25"

26 **SECTION 41.14F.(b)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2023.

27 28 **INCREASE COMPENSATION TO COMMISSION CONTRACT AGENTS AND** 29 **INCREASE PORTION OF TITLE & REGISTRATION FEES CREDITED TO** 30 **HIGHWAY FUND**

31 **SECTION 41.15.(a)** G.S. 20-63(h1) reads as rewritten:

32 (h1) Commission contracts entered into by the Division under this subsection shall also
33 provide for the payment of an additional ~~one dollar (\$1.00)~~ two dollars (\$2.00) of compensation
34 to commission contract agents for any transaction assessed a fee under subdivision (a)(1), (a)(2),
35 (a)(3), (a)(7), (a)(8), or (a)(9) of G.S. 20-85."

36 **SECTION 41.15.(b)** G.S. 20-85(a1) reads as rewritten:

37 (a1) ~~One dollar (\$1.00)~~ Two dollars (\$2.00) of the fee imposed for any transaction assessed
38 a fee under subdivision (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(7), (a)(8), or (a)(9) of this section shall be
39 credited to the North Carolina Highway Fund. The Division shall use the fees derived from
40 transactions with commission contract agents for the payment of compensation to commission
41 contract agents. An additional twenty cents (20¢) of the fee imposed for any transaction assessed
42 a fee under subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be credited to the Mercury Pollution Prevention
43 Fund in the Department of Environmental Quality."

44 **SECTION 41.15.(c)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2023, and applies to
45 certificates of title issued or renewed on or after that date.

46 47 **TRANSFER VACANT POSITIONS TO DIVISION OF AVIATION**

48 **SECTION 41.19.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, of the
49 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions assigned to the Department of Transportation, the
50 Department shall reclassify four FTE positions to be assigned to the Division of Aviation
51 according to the following schedule:

- 1 (1) Program Analyst II.
- 2 (2) Program Analyst II.
- 3 (3) Program Analyst I.
- 4 (4) Administrative Officer II.

5
6 **PART XLII. FINANCE**

7
8 **REDUCE PERSONAL INCOME TAX RATE**

9 **SECTION 42.1.(a)** G.S. 105-153.7(a) reads as rewritten:

10 "(a) Tax. – A tax is imposed for each taxable year on the North Carolina taxable income
11 of every individual. The tax shall be levied, collected, and paid annually. The tax is a percentage
12 of the taxpayer's North Carolina taxable income computed as follows:

Taxable Years Beginning	Tax
13 In 2022	4.99%
14 In 2023	4.75%
15 In 2024	4.6% 4.5%
16 In 2025 and 2026	4.5% 3.99%
17 In 2026 2027	4.25% 3.5%
18 In 2028	3.25%
19 In 2029	2.99%
20 After 2026 2029	3.99% 2.49%."

21 **SECTION 42.1.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

22
23
24 **EXPAND AVIATION SALES TAX EXEMPTION SO THAT PARTS AND**
25 **ACCESSORIES EXEMPTION ALIGNS WITH LABOR EXEMPTION FOR SAME**
26 **TYPES OF AIRCRAFT**

27 **SECTION 42.12.(a)** G.S. 105-164.3(197) reads as rewritten:

28 "(197) Qualified aircraft. – An aircraft with a maximum take-off weight of ~~more than~~
29 ~~9,000 pounds but not in excess of 15,000 pounds.~~ 2,000 pounds and above."

30 **SECTION 42.12.(b)** G.S. 105-164.13(61a)m. reads as rewritten:

- 31 "m. Any of the following:
- 32 1. A qualified aircraft.
 - 33 2. A qualified jet engine.
 - 34 3. ~~An aircraft with a gross take-off weight of more than 2,000~~
35 ~~pounds."~~

36 **SECTION 42.12.(c)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2023, and applies to sales
37 occurring on or after that date.

38
39 **EXTEND SUNSET FOR AVIATION GASOLINE AND JET FUEL FOR USE IN**
40 **COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT**

41 **SECTION 42.13.(a)** G.S. 105-164.13 reads as rewritten:

42 "**§ 105-164.13. Retail sales and use tax.**

43 The sale at retail and the use, storage, or consumption in this State of the following items are
44 specifically exempted from the tax imposed by this Article:

- 45 ...
- 46 (11b) Sales of aviation gasoline and jet fuel to an interstate air business for use in a
47 commercial aircraft. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "commercial
48 aircraft" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (45a) of this section.
49 This exemption also applies to aviation gasoline and jet fuel purchased for use
50 in a commercial aircraft in interstate or foreign commerce by a person whose

primary business is scheduled passenger air transportation. This subdivision expires January 1, ~~2024~~2030.

...."

SECTION 42.13.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law.

EXPAND SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR FUEL & CONSUMABLES USED BY BOATS TRANSPORTING FREIGHT ON INLAND AND INTRACOASTAL WATERWAYS

SECTION 42.14.(a) G.S. 105-164.13 reads as rewritten:

"§ 105-164.13. Retail sales and use tax.

The sale at retail and the use, storage, or consumption in this State of the following items are specifically exempted from the tax imposed by this Article:

...

- (24) Sales of fuel and other tangible personal property for use or consumption by or on ~~ocean going vessels which ply the high seas interstate or foreign commerce in the~~ a watergoing vessel when delivered to an officer or agent of the vessel for the use of the vessel engaged in either of the activities listed in this subdivision. Sales of fuel and other tangible personal property made to officers, agents, members of the crew, or passengers of these vessels for their personal use are not exempt from payment of the sales tax. The activities are:
 - a. The transport of ~~freight~~ freight in intrastate, interstate, or foreign commerce, whether on the high seas, intracoastal waterways, sounds, or rivers.
 - b. and/or The transport of passengers for hire exclusively, when delivered to an officer or agent of such vessel for the use of such vessel; provided, however, that sales of fuel and other tangible personal property made to officers, agents, members of the crew or passengers of such vessels for their personal use shall not be exempted from payment of the sales tax exclusively on the high seas.

...."

SECTION 42.14.(b) This section becomes effective October 1, 2023, and applies to sales occurring on or after that date.

EXEMPT BREAST PUMPS, BREAST PUMP COLLECTION AND STORAGE SUPPLIES, AND REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT PARTS

SECTION 42.16.(a) G.S. 105-164.3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 105-164.3. Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this Article:

...

- (22) Breast pump. – An electrically or manually controlled pump device designed or marketed to be used to express milk from a human breast during lactation. The term includes the electrically or manually controlled pump device and any battery, AC adapter, or other power supply unit packaged and sold with the pump device at the time of sale to power the pump device.
- (#) Breast pump collection and storage supplies. – Items of tangible personal property designed or marketed to be used in conjunction with a breast pump to collect milk expressed from a human breast and to store collected milk until it is ready for consumption. The term includes breast shields and breast shield connectors, breast pump tubes and tubing adapters, breast pump valves and membranes, backflow protectors and backflow protector adaptors, bottles and bottle caps specific to the operation of the breast pump, breast milk storage bags, and other items that may be useful to initiate, support, or sustain

breast-feeding using a breast pump during lactation that may be sold separately, but are generally sold as part of a breast pump kit. The term does not include (i) bottles and bottle caps not specific to the operation of the breast pump, (ii) breast pump travel bags and other similar carrying accessories, including ice packs, labels, and other similar products, (iii) breast pump cleaning supplies, (iv) nursing bras, bra pads, breast shells, and other similar products, and (v) creams, ointments, and other similar products that relieve breastfeeding-related symptoms or conditions of the breasts or nipples, unless sold as part of a breast pump kit pre-packaged by the breast pump manufacturer or distributor.

(#) Breast pump kit. – A kit that contains a breast pump and one or more of the following items: breast pump collection and storage supplies and other taxable items of tangible personal property that may be useful to initiate, support, or sustain breast-feeding using a breast pump during lactation, so long as the other taxable items of tangible personal property sold with the breast pump kit at the time of sale are less than ten percent (10%) of the total sales price of the breast pump kit.

...."

SECTION 42.16.(b) G.S. 105-164.13 reads as rewritten:

"§ 105-164.13. Retail sales and use tax.

The sale at retail and the use, storage, or consumption in this State of the following items are specifically exempted from the tax imposed by this Article:

...

(74) Sales of breast pumps, including repair and replacement parts, breast pump kits, and breast pump collection and storage supplies."

SECTION 42.16.(c) The Revisor of Statutes is authorized to renumber the subdivisions of G.S. 105-164.3 to ensure that the subdivisions are listed in alphabetical order and in a manner that reduces the current use of alphanumeric designations, to make conforming changes, and to reserve sufficient space to accommodate future additions to the statutory section.

SECTION 42.16.(d) This section becomes effective October 1, 2023, and applies to sales occurring on or after that date.

EXPAND 8% SHORT-TERM CAR RENTAL TAX TO INCLUDE PEER-TO-PEER RENTALS

SECTION 42.17.(a) G.S. 105-187.1(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The following definitions and the definitions in G.S. 105-164.3 apply to this Article:

...

(6) Retailer. – A retailer as defined in G.S. 105-164.3 who is engaged in the business of selling, leasing, renting, offering short-term leases or rentals, long-term leases or rentals, or offering vehicle subscriptions for motor vehicles.

(7) Short-term lease or rental. – A lease or rental of a motor vehicle or motor ~~vehicles, vehicles by a person, including a vehicle sharing service, service or a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider,~~ that is not a long-term lease or rental or a vehicle subscription.

(7a) Peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider. – Defined in G.S. 20-280.15.

...."

SECTION 42.17.(b) G.S. 105-187.3(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Tax Base. – ~~The~~ Except as otherwise provided in G.S. 105-187.5, the tax imposed by this Article is applied to the sum of the retail value of a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title is issued and any fee regulated by G.S. 20-101.1. The tax does not apply to the sales price

1 of a service contract, provided the charge is separately stated on the bill of sale or other similar
 2 document given to the purchaser at the time of the sale."

3 **SECTION 42.17.(c)** G.S. 105-187.4(a) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a) Method. – ~~The~~ Except as otherwise provided in G.S. 105-187.5, the tax imposed by
 5 this Article must be paid to the Commissioner when applying for a certificate of title for a motor
 6 vehicle. The Commissioner may not issue a certificate of title for a vehicle until the tax imposed
 7 by this Article has been paid. The tax may be paid in cash or by check."

8 **SECTION 42.17.(d)** G.S. 105-187.5 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 105-187.5. Alternate tax for Tax on a limited possession commitment.**

10 (a) Applicability. – A retailer listed in this section shall pay a tax on the gross receipts of
 11 a limited possession commitment in accordance with this section. The tax is for the privilege of
 12 using the highways of this State and is imposed on a retailer but is to be added to a limited
 13 possession commitment and paid by the person who enters into a limited possession commitment
 14 with the retailer. The retailers are:

15 (1) A retailer that purchases a motor vehicle for use as a limited possession
 16 commitment and makes an election under this section.

17 (2) A peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider.

18 (a1) Election. – A retailer that has purchased a motor vehicle for a limited possession
 19 commitment may elect ~~not to pay to pay~~ the tax imposed by this section instead of the tax imposed
 20 by this Article at the rate set in G.S. 105-187.3 when applying for a certificate of title for a motor
 21 vehicle purchased by the retailer for a limited possession commitment. A retailer who makes this
 22 election shall pay a tax on the gross receipts of the limited possession commitment of the vehicle.
 23 title. To make the election, the retailer shall complete a form provided by the Division giving
 24 information needed to collect the alternate tax based on gross receipts. Once made, an election is
 25 irrevocable. The Division shall notify the Secretary of Revenue of a retailer who makes the
 26 election under this subsection.

27 (a2) Gross Receipts. – Gross receipts does not include the amount of any allowance given
 28 for a motor vehicle taken in trade as a partial payment on the limited possession commitment.
 29 The portion of a limited possession commitment billing or payment that represents any amount
 30 applicable to the sales price of a service contract as defined in G.S. 105-164.3 should not be
 31 included in the gross receipts subject to the tax imposed by this ~~Article.~~ section. The charge must
 32 be separately stated on documentation given to the purchaser at the time the limited possession
 33 commitment goes into effect, or on the monthly billing statement or other documentation given
 34 to the purchaser. When a limited possession commitment is sold to another retailer, the seller of
 35 the limited possession commitment should provide to the purchaser of the limited possession
 36 commitment the documentation showing that the service contract and applicable sales taxes were
 37 separately stated at the time the limited possession commitment went into ~~effect~~ effect, and the
 38 new retailer must retain the information to support an allocation for tax computed on the gross
 39 receipts subject to highway use tax. ~~Like the tax imposed by G.S. 105-187.3, this alternate tax is~~
 40 ~~a tax on the privilege of using the highways of this State. The tax is imposed on a retailer, but is~~
 41 ~~to be added to the limited possession commitment of a motor vehicle and thereby be paid by the~~
 42 ~~person who enters into a limited possession commitment with a retailer.~~

43 (b) Rate. – The applicable tax rates on the gross receipts from a limited possession
 44 commitment are as listed in this subsection. ~~Gross receipts does not include the amount of any~~
 45 ~~allowance given for a motor vehicle taken in trade as a partial payment on the limited possession~~
 46 ~~commitment.~~ The maximum tax in G.S. 105-187.3(a1) on certain motor vehicles applies to a
 47 continuous limited possession commitment of such a motor vehicle to the same person. The
 48 applicable tax rates are as follows:

49 Type of Limited Possession Commitment	Tax Rate
50 Short-term lease or rental	8%
51 Vehicle subscription	5%

1 Long-term lease or rental 3%

2 (e) ~~Method.—A retailer who elects to pay tax on the gross receipts of the limited~~
 3 ~~possession commitment of a motor vehicle shall make this election when applying for a~~
 4 ~~certificate of title for the vehicle. To make the election, the retailer shall complete a form provided~~
 5 ~~by the Division giving information needed to collect the alternate tax based on gross receipts.~~
 6 ~~Once made, an election is irrevocable.~~

7 (d) ~~Administration. — The Division shall notify the Secretary of Revenue of a retailer who~~
 8 ~~makes the election under this section. A retailer who makes this election pays the tax under this~~
 9 ~~section shall report and remit to the Secretary the tax on the gross receipts of the limited~~
 10 ~~possession commitment of the motor vehicle. The Secretary shall administer the tax imposed by~~
 11 ~~this section on gross receipts in the same manner as the tax levied under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(2).~~
 12 ~~The administrative provisions and powers of the Secretary that apply to the tax levied under~~
 13 ~~G.S. 105-164.4(a)(2) apply to the tax imposed by this section. In addition, the Division may~~
 14 ~~request the Secretary to audit a retailer who elects to pay tax on gross receipts under this section.~~
 15 ~~When the Secretary conducts an audit at the request of the Division, the Division shall reimburse~~
 16 ~~the Secretary for the cost of the audit, as determined by the Secretary. In conducting an audit of~~
 17 ~~a retailer under this section, the Secretary may audit any sales of motor vehicles made by the~~
 18 ~~retailer."~~

19 **SECTION 42.17.(e)** G.S. 153A-156 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 153A-156. Gross receipts tax on short-term leases or rentals.**

21 (a) ~~As a substitute for and in replacement of the ad valorem tax, which is excluded by~~
 22 ~~G.S. 105-275(42), a A county may levy a gross receipts tax on the gross receipts from the~~
 23 ~~short-term lease or rental of vehicles at retail to the general public. The tax rate shall not exceed~~
 24 ~~one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the gross receipts from ~~such~~ the short-term leases or rentals.~~

25 (b) ~~If a county enacts the substitute and replacement a gross receipts tax pursuant to this~~
 26 ~~section, ~~any~~ an entity required to collect the tax shall include a provision in each retail short-term~~
 27 ~~lease or rental agreement noting that the percentage amount enacted by the county of the total~~
 28 ~~lease or rental price, excluding highway use tax, is being charged as a tax on gross receipts. For~~
 29 ~~purposes of this section, the transaction giving rise to the tax ~~shall be deemed to have occurred~~~~
 30 ~~occurs at the location of the entity from which ~~where~~ the customer takes delivery of the vehicle.~~
 31 ~~The tax shall be collected at the time of lease or rental and placed in a segregated account until~~
 32 ~~remitted to the county.~~

33 ...

34 (e) ~~The following definitions in G.S. 105-187.1 apply in this section:~~section.

35 (1) ~~Short term lease or rental. — Defined in G.S. 105-187.1.~~

36 (2) ~~Vehicle. — Any of the following:~~

37 a. ~~A motor vehicle of the passenger type, including a passenger van,~~
 38 ~~minivan, or sport utility vehicle.~~

39 b. ~~A motor vehicle of the cargo type, including cargo van, pickup truck,~~
 40 ~~or truck with a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 pounds or less used~~
 41 ~~predominantly in the transportation of property for other than~~
 42 ~~commercial freight and that does not require the operator to possess a~~
 43 ~~commercial drivers license.~~

44 c. ~~A trailer or semitrailer with a gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds or~~
 45 ~~less.~~

46"

47 **SECTION 42.17.(f)** G.S. 160A-215.1 reads as rewritten:

48 **"§ 160A-215.1. Gross receipts tax on short-term leases or rentals.**

49 (a) ~~As a substitute for and in replacement of the ad valorem tax, which is excluded by~~
 50 ~~G.S. 105-275(42), a A city may levy a gross receipts tax on the gross receipts from the short-term~~

1 lease or rental of vehicles at retail to the general public. The tax rate shall not exceed one and
 2 one-half percent (1.5%) of the gross receipts from ~~such the~~ short-term leases or rentals.

3 (b) If a city enacts ~~the substitute and replacement a~~ gross receipts tax pursuant to this
 4 section, ~~any an~~ entity required to collect the tax shall include a provision in each retail short-term
 5 lease or rental agreement noting that the percentage amount enacted by the city of the total lease
 6 or rental price, excluding highway use tax, is being charged as a tax on gross receipts. For
 7 purposes of this section, the transaction giving rise to the tax ~~shall be deemed to have occurred~~
 8 occurs at the location of the entity from which ~~where~~ the customer takes delivery of the vehicle.
 9 The tax shall be collected at the time of lease or rental and placed in a segregated account until
 10 remitted to the city.

11 ...

12 (e) The following definitions in G.S. 105-187.1 apply in this section:section.

13 (1) ~~Short term lease or rental. — Defined in G.S. 105-187.1.~~

14 (2) ~~Vehicle. — Any of the following:~~

15 a. ~~A motor vehicle of the passenger type, including a passenger van,
 16 minivan, or sport utility vehicle.~~

17 b. ~~A motor vehicle of the cargo type, including cargo van, pickup truck,
 18 or truck with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less
 19 used predominantly in the transportation of property for other than
 20 commercial freight and that does not require the operator to possess a
 21 commercial drivers license.~~

22 e. ~~A trailer or semitrailer with a gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds or
 23 less.~~

24"

25 **SECTION 42.17.(g)** G.S. 105-550 reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 105-550. Definitions.**

27 The definitions in ~~G.S. 105-164.3~~ G.S. 105-164.3, G.S. 105-187.1, and the following
 28 definitions apply in this Article:

29 (1) Authority. – A regional public transportation authority or a regional
 30 transportation authority created pursuant to Article 26 or Article 27 of Chapter
 31 160A of the General Statutes.

32 (2) ~~Long term lease or rental. — Defined in G.S. 105-187.1.~~

33 (3) Motorcycle. – Defined in G.S. 20-4.01.

34 (4) Repealed by Session Laws 1998-98, s. 33, effective August 14, 1998.

35 (5) Public transportation system. – Any combination of real and personal property
 36 established for purposes of public transportation. The systems may include
 37 one or more of the following: structures, improvements, buildings, equipment,
 38 vehicle parking or passenger transfer facilities, railroads and railroad
 39 rights-of-way, rights-of-way, bus services, shared-ride services,
 40 high-occupancy vehicle facilities, car-pool and vanpool programs, voucher
 41 programs, telecommunications and information systems, integrated fare
 42 systems, bus lanes, and busways. The term does not include, however, streets,
 43 roads, or highways except to the extent they are dedicated to public
 44 transportation vehicles or to the extent they are necessary for access to vehicle
 45 parking or passenger transfer facilities.

46 (6) ~~Short term lease or rental. — Defined in G.S. 105-187.1.~~

47 (7) U-drive-it vehicle. – Defined in G.S. 20-4.01."

48 **SECTION 42.17.(h)** G.S. 105-551 reads as rewritten:

49 **"§ 105-551. Tax on gross receipts authorized.**

50 (a) Tax. – The board of trustees of an Authority may levy a privilege tax on a retailer
 51 who is engaged in the business of leasing or renting U drive it vehicles or motorcycles described

1 in this subsection based on the gross receipts derived by the retailer from the short-term lease or
 2 rental of ~~these~~ vehicles. The tax rate must be a percentage and may not exceed five percent (5%).
 3 ~~A tax levied under this section applies to short term leases or rentals made by a retailer whose~~
 4 ~~place of business or inventory is located within the territorial jurisdiction of the Authority.~~ This
 5 tax is in addition to all other taxes. The retailers subject to this section are:

- 6 (1) A retailer engaged in the business of leasing or renting U-drive-it vehicles or
 7 motorcycles and whose place of business or inventory is located within the
 8 territorial jurisdiction of the Authority.
- 9 (2) A peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider if the customer takes delivery of the
 10 vehicle within the territorial jurisdiction of the Authority.

11"

12 **SECTION 42.17.(i)** G.S. 105-552 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 105-552. Collection and administration of gross receipts tax.**

14 ...

15 (b) Collection. – A tax levied by an Authority under this Article shall be collected by the
 16 Authority but shall otherwise be administered in the same manner as the ~~optional~~ gross receipts
 17 tax levied ~~by under~~ G.S. 105-187.5. Like the ~~optional~~ gross receipts tax, a tax levied under this
 18 Article is to be added to the lease or rental price of a ~~U drive it vehicle or motoreycle~~ the vehicle
 19 and thereby be paid by the person to whom it is leased or rented.

20 A tax levied under this Article applies regardless of whether ~~the a~~ retailer who ~~leases or rents~~
 21 ~~the U drive it vehicle or motoreycle~~ has the option of paying the gross receipts tax under
 22 G.S. 105-187.5 has elected to pay the ~~optional~~ gross receipts tax on the lease or rental receipts
 23 from the vehicle. A tax levied under this Article must be paid to the Authority that levied the tax
 24 by the date ~~an optional~~ the gross receipts tax levied under G.S. 105-187.5 is payable or would be
 25 payable to the Secretary of Revenue under G.S. 105-187.5 if the retailer who leases or rents the
 26 U-drive-it vehicle or motorcycle had elected to pay the optional gross receipts tax.

27 (c) Penalties and Remedies. – The penalties and remedies that apply to local sales and
 28 use taxes levied under Subchapter VIII of this Chapter apply to a tax levied under this Article.
 29 The board of trustees of an Authority may exercise any power the Secretary of Revenue or a
 30 board of county commissioners may exercise in collecting local sales and use taxes."

31 **SECTION 42.17.(j)** G.S. 20-280.15 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 20-280.15. Definitions.**

33 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 34 (1) Airport operator. – As defined in G.S. 20-280.1.
- 35 (2) ~~Peer to peer vehicle sharing. — The authorized use of a shared vehicle by an~~
 36 ~~individual other than the shared vehicle owner through a peer to peer vehicle~~
 37 ~~sharing program.~~
- 38 (3) Peer-to-peer vehicle sharing program. – A business platform that connects
 39 ~~shared~~ registered vehicle owners that have not made an election under
 40 G.S. 105-187.5 with drivers to enable the sharing of vehicles for financial
 41 consideration.
- 42 (4) Shared vehicle. – A vehicle that is available for sharing through a peer-to-peer
 43 vehicle sharing program.
- 44 (5) ~~Shared vehicle owner. — The registered owner of a shared vehicle that is made~~
 45 ~~available for sharing through a peer to peer vehicle sharing program.~~
- 46 (6) ~~Vehicle~~ Peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider. – ~~The~~ A person or entity that
 47 operates, facilitates, or administers ~~the provision of personal vehicle sharing~~
 48 ~~through~~ a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing program."

49 **SECTION 42.17.(k)** G.S. 20-280.17 reads as rewritten:

50 **"§ 20-280.17. Airport operators.**

1 An airport operator may (i) charge peer-to-peer vehicle sharing ~~programs~~providers a
2 reasonable fee for the use of the airport's facility, (ii) require an identifying decal be displayed
3 on all shared vehicles that operate on airport property, (iii) require the purchase and use of
4 equipment or establish other appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and auditing compliance,
5 including having a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing ~~program~~provider provide data for purposes of
6 monitoring and auditing compliance, and (iv) designate a location where shared vehicles may
7 stage on the airport operator's facility."

8 **SECTION 42.17.(I)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2023, and applies to
9 gross receipts derived from rentals or leases billed on or after that date.

10
11 **CHANGE METHOD OF TAXING SMOKELESS TOBACCO FROM COST-BASED TO**
12 **WEIGHT-BASED AND EXPAND BASE TO INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE**
13 **PRODUCTS**

14 **SECTION 42.18.(a)** G.S. 105-113.4 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 105-113.4. Definitions.**

16 The following definitions apply in this Article:

17 (1) Affiliate. – A person who directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is
18 under common control with another person.

19 (1a) Affiliated manufacturer. – A manufacturer licensed under G.S. 105-113.12
20 who is an affiliate of a manufacturer licensed under G.S. 105-113.12.

21 (1b) Alternative nicotine product. – A noncombustible product that contains
22 nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, but does not contain tobacco and is
23 intended for human consumption, whether chewed, absorbed, dissolved,
24 ingested, or by other means. This term does not include a vapor product or any
25 product regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration under
26 Chapter V of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

27 (1c) Cigar. – A roll of tobacco wrapped in a substance that contains tobacco, other
28 than a cigarette.

29 ~~(1e)~~(1d) Cigarette. – Any of the following:

30 a. A roll of tobacco wrapped in paper or in a substance that does not
31 contain tobacco.

32 b. A roll of tobacco wrapped in a substance that contains tobacco and
33 that, because of its appearance, the type of tobacco used in the filler,
34 or its packaging and labeling, is likely to be offered to or purchased by
35 a consumer as a cigarette described in subpart a. of this subdivision.

36 ...

37 (11a) Tobacco product. – A cigarette, a cigar, a vapor product, an alternative
38 nicotine product, or any other product that contains tobacco and is intended
39 for inhalation or oral use. ~~The term includes a vapor product.~~

40"

41 **SECTION 42.18.(b)** G.S. 105-113.36A reads as rewritten:

42 **"§ 105-113.36A. Tax rates; liability for tax.**

43 (a) Tax Imposed. – An excise tax is levied on the sale, use, consumption, handling, or
44 distribution of tobacco products at the following rates:

45 (1) On vapor products, the rate of five cents (5¢) per fluid milliliter of consumable
46 product. All invoices for vapor products issued by manufacturers must state
47 the amount of consumable product in milliliters.

48 (2) On cigars, the rate of twelve and eight-tenths percent (12.8%) of the cost price,
49 subject to a cap of thirty cents (30¢) per cigar.

- 1 (3) On all other tobacco products, the rate of ~~twelve and eight-tenths percent~~
2 ~~(12.8%) of the cost price~~ forty-three cents (43¢) per ounce and a proportionate
3 rate on all fractional parts of an ounce.

4 ...
5 (f) Documentation. – If a person liable for the tax imposed by this Part cannot produce
6 to the Secretary's satisfaction documentation of the cost ~~price~~ price, weight, or volume of the
7 items subject to tax, based on the applicable tax imposed, the Secretary may determine a value
8 based on the cost ~~price~~ price, weight, or volume of comparable items."

9 **SECTION 42.18.(c)** G.S. 105-113.38B reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 105-113.38B. Records.**

11 In addition to the records required to be kept under G.S. 105-113.4G, a remote seller must
12 maintain the following:

- 13 (1) A list, updated annually, showing the cost price paid by the remote seller for
14 each stock keeping unit of ~~tobacco products~~ cigars.
15 (2) Invoices documenting remote or delivery sales to consumers in this State.
16 (3) Records necessary to document the cost ~~price~~ price or weight, based on the
17 applicable tax imposed, of purchases of all tobacco products sold to
18 consumers in this State."

19 **SECTION 42.18.(d)** G.S. 105-113.4D reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 105-113.4D. Tax with respect to inventory on effective date of tax increase.**

21 Every person subject to the taxes levied in this Article who, on the effective date of a tax
22 increase under this Article, has on hand any tobacco products must file a complete inventory of
23 the tobacco products within 20 days after the effective date of the increase, and must pay an
24 additional tax to the Secretary when filing the inventory. The amount of tax due is the amount
25 due based on the difference between the former tax rate and the increased tax rate. For purposes
26 of this section, a "tax increase" includes a new tax or a change to the methodology for calculating
27 a tax that results in additional tax being due."

28 **SECTION 42.18.(e)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2025, and applies to
29 sales or purchases occurring on or after that date.

30
31 **PART XLIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

32
33 **STATE BUDGET ACT APPLIES**

34 **SECTION 43.1.** The provisions of the State Budget Act, Chapter 143C of the
35 General Statutes, are reenacted and shall remain in full force and effect and are incorporated in
36 this act by reference.

37
38 **COMMITTEE REPORT**

39 **SECTION 43.2.(a)** The North Carolina Senate Appropriations Committee Report
40 on the Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2023, Proposed Committee Substitute for H259,
41 as amended, which was distributed in the Senate and used to explain this act, shall indicate action
42 by the General Assembly on this act and shall, therefore, be used to construe this act, as provided
43 in the State Budget Act, Chapter 143C of the General Statutes, as appropriate, and for these
44 purposes shall be considered a part of this act and, as such, shall be printed as a part of the Session
45 Laws.

46 **SECTION 43.2.(b)** The budget enacted by the General Assembly is for the
47 maintenance of the various departments, institutions, and other spending agencies of the State
48 for the 2023-2025 biennial budget as provided in G.S. 143C-3-5. This budget includes the
49 appropriations of State funds as defined in G.S. 143C-1-1(d)(25).

50 The Director of the Budget submitted a recommended base budget to the General
51 Assembly in the Governor's Recommended Budget for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, dated

1 March 2023, and in the Budget Support Document for the various departments, institutions, and
2 other spending agencies of the State. The adjustments to the recommended base budget made by
3 the General Assembly are set out in the Committee Report.

4 **SECTION 43.2.(c)** The budget enacted by the General Assembly shall also be
5 interpreted in accordance with G.S. 143C-5-5, the special provisions in this act, and other
6 appropriate legislation. In the event that there is a conflict between the line-item budget certified
7 by the Director of the Budget and the budget enacted by the General Assembly, the budget
8 enacted by the General Assembly shall prevail.

9 **SECTION 43.2.(d)** Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the following
10 portions of the Committee Report are for reference, and do not expand, limit, or define the text
11 of the Committee Report:

- 12 (1) Summary pages setting forth the enacted budget, the legislative changes, the
13 revised budget, and the related FTE information for a particular budget code
14 and containing no other substantive information.
- 15 (2) Summary pages setting forth the enacted budget, the legislative changes, the
16 revised budget, and the related FTE information for multiple fund codes
17 within a single budget code and containing no other substantive information.

18 **REPORT BY FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

19 **SECTION 43.3.** The Fiscal Research Division shall issue a report on budget actions
20 taken by the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The report shall be in the form of a
21 revision of the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of this act pursuant to G.S. 143C-5-5.
22 The Director of the Fiscal Research Division shall send a copy of the report issued pursuant to
23 this section to the Director of the Budget. The report shall be published on the General
24 Assembly's internet website for public access.
25

26 **APPROPRIATIONS LIMITATIONS AND DIRECTIONS APPLY**

27 **SECTION 43.4.** Except where expressly repealed or amended by this act, the
28 provisions of any legislation enacted during the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly
29 affecting the State budget shall remain in effect.
30

31 **MOST TEXT APPLIES ONLY TO THE 2023-2025 FISCAL BIENNIUM**

32 **SECTION 43.5.** Except for statutory changes or other provisions that clearly indicate
33 an intention to have effects beyond the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the textual provisions of this
34 act apply only to funds appropriated for, and activities occurring during, the 2023-2025 fiscal
35 biennium.
36

37 **EFFECT OF HEADINGS**

38 **SECTION 43.6.** The headings to the Parts, Subparts, and sections of this act are a
39 convenience to the reader and are for reference only. The headings do not expand, limit, or define
40 the text of this act, except for effective dates referring to a Part or Subpart.
41

42 **SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

43 **SECTION 43.7.** If any section or provision of this act is declared unconstitutional
44 or invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part other than
45 the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.
46

47 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

48 **SECTION 43.8.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective July 1,
49 2023.
50