



HOUSE BILL 658: Deploy Child Welfare & Aging Component/NCFASST.

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

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Families, Children, and Aging Policy. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 4, 2021
Introduced by:	Rep. Lambeth	Prepared by:	Jennifer Hillman Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 658 would require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to deploy the case management functionality for the child welfare component of the North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) system statewide by July 1, 2022, and to enter into a contract to augment and enhance the component by August 1, 2021. The bill would also require DHHS to deploy NC FAST case management functionality for aging and adult services' programs. The bill would appropriate funds for these purposes.

CURRENT LAW: The NC FAST system delivers State benefits and services at the county level for the 100 county departments of social services and determines eligibility for social services programs (e.g., Food and Nutrition Services, Work First) and Medicaid. The NC FAST system consists of multiple components. The child welfare component is often referred to as the "NC FAST P4" project. This component is intended to implement a statewide child welfare case management system. Currently, 11 counties are using all component modules, and another 14 counties are using the Intake and Assessment module only. In Section 24 of S.L. 2019-240, the General Assembly postponed deployment of the component in additional counties and directed DHHS to develop and issue requests for information (RFIs) to consider a vehicle for improving or replacing the component. This law also directed the Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly to evaluate the case management functionality of the component. On June 12, 2020, the Program Evaluation Division issued its report, [NC FAST Child Welfare Case Management Software Demonstrates Adequate Functionality but Poor Usability](#), and on September 14, 2020, DHHS issued its [Child Welfare Request for Information and Child Welfare Case Management Legislative Report](#). These reports recommended enhancing the existing NC FAST child welfare component and augmenting it with other technologies that complement or replace components of the current system.

NC FAST case management for aging and adult services' program has not been implemented in any counties.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1(a) would require DHHS to deploy the case management functionality for the child welfare component of the NC FAST system statewide by July 1, 2022, and would require DHHS to deploy NC FAST case management functionality for aging and adult services' programs. Section 1(b) would require DHHS to enter into a contract to augment and enhance the child welfare component of the NC FAST system by August 1, 2021.

Section 2 would appropriate approximately \$17 million in nonrecurring funds during the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be used for these purposes.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 would become effective when it becomes law. The remainder of the bill would become effective July 1, 2021.