OVERVIEW: Section 9I.18 of S.L. 2021-180 allocates a portion of funding from the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund to the Division of Social Services (DSS), Department of Health and Human Services, to ease the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency for families enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Work First Cash Assistance program with at least one child under 18 years of age. This section directs DSS to distribute payments via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) to families as follows:

- A first payment of $500 per child in the fall/winter of 2021-2022.
- A second payment of $500 per child, based on available funding, in the summer of 2022.

This section became effective July 1, 2022.