



2025-2026 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 257: 2026 Appropriations Act, Sec. 9D.7: Smart Start Literacy Initiative/Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-41, Sec. 9D.7

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Section 9D.7 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), as amended by Section 4.2 of S.L. 2026-61 (House Bill 268), requires the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) to continue to use a portion of the funds allocated to it by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to increase access to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

NCPC is allowed to use up to 1% of the allocated funding for statewide program management and up to 1% for program evaluation. Funding provided under this section is not subject other administrative costs and match requirements in this act, or the statutory requirements for child care services funding and child care subsidy expansion. Additionally, the funding provided for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will not revert on June 30, 2027, but will remain available until June 30, 2032, when the funds will revert to the appropriate fund.

NCPC is required to submit a report based on the program evaluation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by December 1 of each even numbered year.

This section, as amended, became effective July 1, 2026.

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