



SENATE BILL 257: 2026 Appropriations Act, Sec. 9J.6: Federal Child Support Incentive Payments

2025-2026 General Assembly

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-41, Sec. 9J.6

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Prepared by: Legislative Analysis
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Section 9J.6 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) allows the North Carolina Child Support Services Section (NCCSS) of the Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to retain up to 15% of the annual federal incentive payments it receives for the purpose of enhancing centralized child support services in specified ways.

NCCSS is required to allocate at least 85% of the annual federal incentives payments it receives to county child support services programs to improve effectiveness and efficiency using the federal performance measures. NCCSS is required to examine its methodology for distributing federal incentive funding to county programs and, if it adopts an alternative formula, develop a process to phase in the alternative formula for distributing federal incentive funding over a four-year period.

NCCSS is required to mandate the submission of an annual plan and report from county child support services programs, to ensure that those programs are following NCCSS' guidelines on the appropriate use of the funding.

NCCSS is required to submit a report on federal child support incentive funding to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by November 1 of each year.

This section became effective on July 1, 2026.

Kara McCraw
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