

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL DRS35343-LUa-146A

Short Title: Funds for Smart Start Healthy Dev. Initiative. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Krawiec (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP FOR  
3 CHILDREN, INC., FOR AN INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE YOUNG CHILDREN'S  
4 HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

5 Whereas, children are born ready to learn but may not have access to the experiences  
6 or environments that foster healthy brain development; and

7 Whereas, young children learn and grow in strong families where parents are able to  
8 successfully face the challenge of caring for their children while meeting their work and other  
9 responsibilities; and

10 Whereas, studies of parent education, family support, and home visiting programs  
11 have been shown to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect,  
12 encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness; and

13 Whereas, North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., (Smart Start) local  
14 partnerships have administered parent education, family support, and home visiting programs  
15 since 1993 and use community-based, data-driven decision making to improve the health,  
16 well-being, and development of children based on the needs and resources of their local  
17 communities; and

18 Whereas, Smart Start provides fiscal and programmatic oversight of all services  
19 administered through local partnerships and reports annually to the General Assembly on  
20 outcomes for children; Now, therefore,

21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
23 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of  
24 ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to be allocated to the North  
25 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., for an initiative to promote young children's healthy  
26 development. Funds allocated to the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., pursuant to  
27 this section shall be used for (i) evidence-based parent education programs that give parents tools  
28 to increase their knowledge of early childhood development and positive parenting practices and  
29 (ii) evidence-based home visiting programs that help parents by providing education,  
30 information, and resources.

31 **SECTION 1.(b)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., may use up to  
32 two percent (2%) of the funds appropriated under this section for statewide program management  
33 and evaluation. Funds appropriated under this section shall not be subject to administrative cost  
34 requirements under Section 11B.8(b) of S.L. 2017-57, nor shall these funds be subject to the  
35 child care services funding requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(b), child care subsidy



1 expansion requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(g), or the match requirements under Section  
2 11B.8(d) of S.L. 2017-57.

3           **SECTION 1.(c)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall report on  
4 the success of the healthy development initiative, including any recommendations, to the Joint  
5 Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by March 1, 2019. The report  
6 shall include preliminary outcomes associated with the initiative.

7           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2018.