

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 367
Mar 14, 2019
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30169-LUa-56B*

Short Title: ApSeed Pilot Project/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Horn, Warren, Lucas, and Howard (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "APSEED" PILOT PROJECT AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS
3 FOR THAT PURPOSE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child
6 Development and Early Education (Division), shall establish a three-year pilot project to
7 implement the "ApSeed" program, a program designed to prepare preschool-age children, ages
8 birth through four years of age, for prekindergarten through an interactive learning device known
9 as a "seedling" (a device similar to an iPad). The seedling provides games varying in skill level
10 depending on the age and capability of the child and advances in level as the child gains
11 proficiency.

12 **SECTION 1.(b)** The following counties shall participate in the pilot project
13 described under subsection (a) of this section: Forsyth, Hoke, New Hanover, Watauga, and
14 Yadkin. Each of those counties shall select preschool-age children to participate in the pilot
15 project the county, in its discretion, identifies as having the greatest need, taking into
16 consideration poverty level as a factor.

17 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
18 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), the
19 sum of two million five hundred thousand hundred dollars (\$2,500,000) in nonrecurring funds
20 for each year of the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium to provide for the equipment and costs associated
21 with the "ApSeed" pilot project established by this act. These funds shall be allocated to the five
22 counties participating in the pilot project with each county receiving an amount up to five
23 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), as determined by the Division, for each year of the
24 2019-2021 fiscal biennium.

25 **SECTION 2.(b)** For the 2021-2022 fiscal year only, the Director of Budget shall
26 also include in the base budget, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1(d)(1c), the amount of nonrecurring
27 funds needed to support the pilot project established in this act. Upon completion of the pilot
28 project, any unexpended funds shall revert back to the General Fund.

29 **SECTION 3.** Within six months after completion of the pilot project, the Division
30 shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human
31 Services, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, and the Fiscal Research
32 Division. The report shall include, at a minimum, each of the following:

- 33 (1) The number of children served, by age and county.
34 (2) The skills gained by the participants as compared to those children who did
35 not participate in the pilot project.
36 (3) The extent of parental involvement in the pilot project.



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- 1 (4) Total project costs, including any administrative costs.
- 2 (5) The amount of funds needed to expand the program statewide.
- 3 (6) Any other relevant information deemed appropriate.
- 4 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.