

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL DRS35390-LUa-165

Short Title: Funds for NC Pre-K.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Garrett, Mohammed, and Van Duyn (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR ALL INCOME-ELIGIBLE,
3 FOUR-YEAR OLD CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTH CAROLINA
4 PREKINDERGARTEN (NC PRE-K) PROGRAM.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
7 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of
8 one hundred eighty million dollars (\$180,000,000) recurring for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to
9 provide additional funds for all income-eligible, four-year old children in this State to participate
10 in the North Carolina Prekindergarten (NC Pre-K) program.

11 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
12 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of
13 twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) recurring for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to incentivize higher
14 pay for NC Pre-K teachers in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

15 **SECTION 2.(b)** By no later than July 1, 2021, the Division of Child Development
16 and Early Education (Division) shall develop and implement a program to incentivize higher
17 teacher education and compensation levels for teachers teaching in the NC Pre-K program by
18 providing subsidy payment enhancements to child care programs that use a salary scale and only
19 employ lead teachers who have obtained a minimum of an associate's degree in child
20 development or a related field. The incentive amount shall be differentiated based on the level of
21 degree attained. The Division shall submit a progress report on the development and
22 implementation of the program required by this subsection to the Joint Legislative Oversight
23 Committee on Health and Human Services by March 1, 2022.

24 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2020.

