

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 1050
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30538-MGa-189A

Short Title: The Youth Sports Scholarship Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Alston.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
3 DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILD WELL-BEING, TO ESTABLISH A YOUTH
4 SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO EXPAND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN
5 SPORTS AND ENCOURAGE REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTO ADULTHOOD;
6 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

7 Whereas, childhood sports participation can encourage people to be physically active
8 into adulthood; and

9 Whereas, childhood sports participation can help reduce obesity, diabetes, and other
10 health-related problems while also leveling the playing field so that every child has the
11 opportunity to participate in youth sports regardless of their socioeconomic background; and

12 Whereas, sports participation can strongly impact the lives of youth and communities
13 to help prevent youth violence and reduce recidivism; and

14 Whereas, juvenile crime rates are consistently reduced in neighborhoods where
15 sports-based youth development programs enrich the lives of at-risk youth; Now, therefore,
16 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

17 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
18 Health and Human Services, Division of Family and Child Well-Being, the sum of five million
19 dollars (\$5,000,000) in recurring funds to establish and administer a Youth Sports Scholarship
20 Program to provide scholarships to families of low socioeconomic status for the purpose of
21 expanding youth participation in sports and encouraging youth to engage in regular physical
22 activity into adulthood. In administering the scholarship program authorized by this section, the
23 Division of Family and Child Well-Being is subject to the following requirements and
24 limitations:

- 25 (1) The scholarships shall be made available to families whose total income is at
26 or below two hundred percent (200%) of the current federal poverty level.
- 27 (2) The amount of any scholarship awarded to an eligible family shall not exceed
28 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per household.
- 29 (3) The Division of Family and Child Well-Being shall develop a process to
30 ensure that scholarship funds are used only for the following purposes:
- 31 a. To purchase sports equipment.
- 32 b. To pay for costs and fees associated with youth participation in sports
33 lessons, camps, leagues, and other sports activities.
- 34 c. To pay for any other related expenses approved by the Division of
35 Family and Child Well-Being that serve the purpose of expanding



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- 1 youth participation in sports or encouraging youth to engage in regular
- 2 physical activity.
- 3 (4) The Division of Family and Child Well-Being may use up to five percent (5%)
- 4 of the funds appropriated in this section for administrative purposes.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2022.