

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL DRS15185-LUa-124B

Short Title: Funds/Dolly Parton Imagination Lib./Childcare. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Burgin, Krawiec, and Hise (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE FUNDING TO DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY
3 AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPROVE CHILD CARE ACCESS.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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6 **PART I. FUNDS FOR DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY**

7 **SECTION 1.1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
8 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of
9 one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in recurring funds for each year of the
10 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to be allocated to the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.,
11 for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an early literacy program that mails age-appropriate
12 books to registered children on a monthly basis.

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14 **PART II. INCREASE CAPACITY, ACCESS, AND AFFORDABILITY FOR FAMILIES**

15 **SECTION 2.1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
16 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), the
17 sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year
18 for a child care infrastructure study to be performed by a North Carolina nonprofit foundation
19 having expertise with employers in different industries from across the State. The nonprofit
20 foundation selected to conduct the study shall analyze innovative State-based options that engage
21 employers in solutions that meet the child care infrastructure, capital, and workforce needs with
22 a focus on promoting child care accessibility and affordability. The Division shall submit a report
23 on the study to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by
24 December 1, 2024.

25 **SECTION 2.2.** Effective October 1, 2023, Section 9C.4(a) of S.L. 2021-180 reads
26 as rewritten:

27 **"SECTION 9C.4.(a)** The maximum gross annual income for initial eligibility, adjusted
28 annually, for subsidized child care services shall be determined based on a percentage of the
29 federal poverty level as follows:

30 AGE	INCOME PERCENTAGE LEVEL
31 0 – 5	200%
32 6 – 12	133%

33 The eligibility for any child with special needs, including a child who is 13 years of age or
34 older, shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the State Median Income. The child of an individual
35 employed by or with an employment offer and designated start date from a licensed child care



1 facility in this State is deemed eligible for the subsidized child care program and is not subject to
2 the income eligibility requirements of this subsection."

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4 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

5 **SECTION 3.1.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective July 1,
6 2023.