

**Joint Conference Committee Report on the
Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 - Part II**

Senate Bill 743

October 24, 2024

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2XXXX-Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery Fund

Legislative Changes

General Disaster Assistance

1 State Matching Funds

S.L. 2024-51, The Disaster Recovery Act of 2024, allocated \$250 million to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management (NCEM), to provide the State match for federal disaster assistance programs. These funds will be used to match federal funding and will generate an estimated \$2.25 billion in federal receipts, assuming a 90/10 federal match rate.

Requirements	\$	-
Less: Receipts	\$	-
Net Appropriation	\$	-
FTE		-

S.B. 743 expands the use of the state matching funds and removes the language around the revolving loan program for units of local government. Additional funds for units of local governments' cash flow needs are included in a separate item in this report.

2 Additional State Matching Funds

Allocates additional funding to NCEM to provide State match for federal disaster assistance programs. Along with funding included in S.L. 2024-51, the total General Fund appropriation is \$325 million, and these funds will generate an estimated \$2.9 billion in federal receipts, assuming a 90/10 federal match rate.

Requirements	\$	750,000,000 NR
Less: Receipts	\$	675,000,000 NR
Net Appropriation	\$	75,000,000
FTE		-

3 State and Local Government Unmet Needs

Allocates funding to NCEM for state agencies and units of local government in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene for unmet needs not covered by insurance or available federal aid.

Requirements	\$	50,000,000 NR
Less: Receipts	\$	-
Net Appropriation	\$	50,000,000
FTE		-

4 Technical Assistance for Local Governments

S.L. 2024-51, The Disaster Recovery Act of 2024, allocated \$2 million to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to provide grants to the NC League of Municipalities, NC Association of County Commissioners, and NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments to provide technical assistance with federal financial aid applications.

Requirements	\$	-
Less: Receipts	\$	-
Net Appropriation	\$	-
FTE		-

S.B. 743 amends this item to expand the uses of funds to include planning and permitting assistance and to build capacity for building and trade inspections.

5 Increased Technical Assistance to Local Governments

Allocates additional funding to OSBM to provide grants to the NC League of Municipalities, NC Association of County Commissioners, and NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments to provide technical assistance with federal financial aid applications, support planning and permitting assistance, and build capacity for building and trade inspections.

Requirements	\$	5,500,000 NR
Less: Receipts	\$	-
Net Appropriation	\$	5,500,000
FTE		-

Education

6 School Nutrition Employee Compensation

S.L. 2024-51, The Disaster Recovery Act of 2024, allocated \$16 million to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for the compensation of school nutrition employees in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene whose compensation would otherwise have been provided by school meal receipts as part of the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program.

Requirements	\$	-
Less: Receipts	\$	-
Net Appropriation	\$	-
FTE		-

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<p>7 Capital Recovery Funds - Public School Facilities</p> <p>Allocates funds to DPI for repair and renovation of facilities in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene for local school administrative units and lab schools. These funds are for unmet needs not covered by insurance or available federal aid.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 50,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 50,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>8 Technology Funds for Public Schools</p> <p>Allocates funds to DPI for replacement of school technology, particularly student and teacher devices, in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 5,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 5,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>9 School Nutrition Food, Supplies, and Equipment Loss</p> <p>Allocates funds to DPI to be used to repair or replace food nutrition equipment, food, and food nutrition supplies in public school units participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 5,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 5,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>10 Additional Mental Health Funds for Public Schools</p> <p>Allocates funds for mental health services, including telehealth and contracted services, for students and staff in public school units impacted by Hurricane Helene.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 5,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 5,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>11 Emergency Grants for Affected Community College Students</p> <p>Allocates funds to the Community College System Office to assist students impacted by Hurricane Helene with paying for tuition, fees, and emergency expenses that impact a student's ability to remain enrolled.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 10,500,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 10,500,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>12 Tuition Grants for Students Attending Impacted Community Colleges</p> <p>Allocates funds to the Community College System Office to provide Spring 2025 grants that cover the cost of tuition and State registration fees for eligible students attending Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, Haywood Community College, Mayland Community College, McDowell Technical Community College, and Western Piedmont Community College, which were designated most or medium impacted by the Community College System Office.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 5,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 5,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>13 Expanded Mental Health Support for Affected Community College Students</p> <p>Allocates funds to the Community College System Office to expand mental health services for community college students and staff in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 1,250,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 1,250,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>14 Tuition Grants for Students Attending UNC Asheville</p> <p>Allocates funds to The University of North Carolina (UNC) Asheville to provide Spring 2025 grants that cover the cost of tuition for eligible students.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 5,500,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 5,500,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>15 Emergency Grants for Affected UNC Students</p> <p>Allocates funds to the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) to assist students impacted by Hurricane Helene with paying for tuition, fees, and emergency expenses that impact a student's ability to remain enrolled.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 5,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 5,000,000</p> <p>-</p>

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<p>16 UNC Capital Recovery Funds</p> <p>Allocates funds to the UNC BOG for repair and renovation of capital facilities in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene. These funds are for unmet needs not covered by insurance or available federal aid.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 5,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 5,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>17 Need-Based Scholarship for Public Colleges and Universities Additional Awards</p> <p>Allocates funds to the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) for the Need-Based Scholarship for Public Colleges and Universities program to make additional award funds available in FY 2024-25, which will be used to provide additional financial aid to eligible disaster-impacted students. SEAA is also directed to use an estimated \$15.6 million in unobligated funds in the Scholarship Reserve Fund for Public Colleges and Universities to distribute awards for this purpose.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 3,500,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 3,500,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>18 Emergency Grants for Affected Private College and University Students</p> <p>Allocates funds to SEAA to distribute to eligible private colleges and universities to assist students impacted by Hurricane Helene with paying for tuition, fees, and emergency expenses that impact a student's ability to remain enrolled.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 1,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 1,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>19 Need-Based Scholarships for Students Attending Private Colleges and Universities Additional Awards</p> <p>Directs SEAA to use an estimated \$2.5 million in unobligated funds available for need-based scholarships for students attending private institutions of higher education to provide additional financial aid to eligible disaster-impacted students.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>-</p>
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Health and Human Services		
<p>20 Mental Health Crisis Supports and Support for Individuals with I/DD</p> <p>Allocates funds to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Central Management and Support, for mental health crisis supports and for support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Funds used for mental health must be used for crisis services.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 25,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 25,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>21 Local Health Department (LHD) Support</p> <p>Allocates funds to DHHS, Division of Public Health, to assist LHDs in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene with restoring essential functions, including temporary staffing, communicable disease and infection prevention efforts, environmental health efforts, and private well water quality efforts.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 12,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ -</p> <p>\$ 12,000,000</p> <p>-</p>
<p>22 Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)</p> <p>Allocates funds to DHHS, Division of Child and Family Well-Being (DCFV), to assist DCFV and county departments of social services in matching federal funds for the administrative expenses incurred in operating D-SNAP, a federal program to provide food assistance to low-income households with food loss or damages caused by Hurricane Helene. Federal D-SNAP benefits are estimated to exceed \$200 million.</p>	<p>Requirements</p> <p>Less: Receipts</p> <p>Net Appropriation</p> <p>FTE</p>	<p>\$ 20,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ 10,000,000 NR</p> <p>\$ 10,000,000</p> <p>-</p>

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<p>23 Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes Disaster Relief</p> <p>Allocates funds to DHHS, Division of Child Development and Early Education, for the North Carolina Partnership for Children to distribute funds to Smart Start Local Partnerships that serve counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene. Partnerships will use the funds for affected child care centers and family child care homes to provide assistance in reopening and maintaining operations, including, but not limited to, cleaning, repairs, and relocating.</p>	<p>Requirements \$ 10,000,000 NR Less: Receipts \$ - Net Appropriation \$ 10,000,000 FTE -</p>
<p>24 Utility Assistance</p> <p>Allocates funds to DHHS, Division of Social Services (DSS), to distribute funds to county departments of social services in counties with a federal disaster declaration to provide energy assistance to households. These funds are to be used in the same way as Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) funds are used.</p>	<p>Requirements \$ 9,000,000 NR Less: Receipts \$ - Net Appropriation \$ 9,000,000 FTE -</p>
<p>25 Child Welfare Essential Services</p> <p>Allocates funds to DHHS, DSS, to distribute funds to county departments of social services to provide essential services and supports to children involved in the child welfare system who have been impacted by Hurricane Helene. These funds shall not be used for any reason other than the provision of services and supports.</p>	<p>Requirements \$ 4,000,000 NR Less: Receipts \$ 1,000,000 NR Net Appropriation \$ 3,000,000 FTE -</p>
<p>26 Essential Services for Vulnerable Adults</p> <p>Allocates funds to DHHS, DSS, to distribute to county departments of social services to provide essential services and supports to vulnerable adults who have been impacted by Hurricane Helene in order to reduce the need for protective services and institutionalization. These funds shall not be used for any reason other than the provision of services and supports.</p>	<p>Requirements \$ 1,400,000 NR Less: Receipts \$ - Net Appropriation \$ 1,400,000 FTE -</p>
<p>27 Rental Assistance</p> <p>Allocates funds to DHHS, DSS, to distribute funds to county departments of social services in counties with a federal disaster declaration to provide rental assistance to households who have suffered hardship due to Hurricane Helene and are facing a housing crisis, such as imminent risk of eviction.</p>	<p>Requirements \$ 1,000,000 NR Less: Receipts \$ - Net Appropriation \$ 1,000,000 FTE -</p>

Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources

<p>28 Small Business Recovery Bridge Loans</p> <p>Allocates funds to the Department of Commerce for the Golden LEAF Foundation to contract with authorized lenders to administer loans to small businesses in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.</p>	<p>Requirements \$ 50,000,000 NR Less: Receipts \$ - Net Appropriation \$ 50,000,000 FTE -</p>
<p>29 Visit NC Tourism Promotion</p> <p>Allocates funds to the Department of Commerce for its contract with the Economic Development Partnership of NC (EDPNC) to promote western NC tourism, including a targeted media campaign aimed at encouraging both in-state and out-of-state tourists to return to the region. Visit NC will work with local businesses in its promotion of western NC tourism.</p>	<p>Requirements \$ 5,000,000 NR Less: Receipts \$ - Net Appropriation \$ 5,000,000 FTE -</p>
<p>30 EDPNC Business Loss Assessment</p> <p>Allocates funds to Commerce for its contract with EDPNC for EDPNC to conduct a business loss assessment in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.</p>	<p>Requirements \$ 1,000,000 NR Less: Receipts \$ - Net Appropriation \$ 1,000,000 FTE -</p>

Hurricane Helene Disaster Funding

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31 Emergency Loans for Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Repair	Requirements	\$ 100,000,000 NR
Allocates funds to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide emergency bridge loans to local government units in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene for water and wastewater infrastructure repairs.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 100,000,000
	FTE	-
32 Technical Assistance for Assessments and Design	Requirements	\$ 7,000,000 NR
Allocates funds to DEQ to provide technical assistance to local government units in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene for assessment and design of water and wastewater infrastructure repair, including the feasibility of regionalization.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 7,000,000
	FTE	-
33 Underground Storage Tank (UST) Repair	Requirements	\$ 22,000,000 NR
Allocates funds to DEQ to provide emergency bridge loans for testing and repair of underground storage tank infrastructure in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 22,000,000
	FTE	-
34 Weatherization Assistance	Requirements	\$ 10,000,000 NR
Allocates funds to DEQ to supplement existing federal funds for weatherization services in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 10,000,000
	FTE	-

Justice and Public Safety

35 NCEM Floodplain Mapping	Requirements	\$ 5,000,000 NR
Allocates funds to NCEM for floodplain mapping in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene. This funding will be used to revise existing floodplain maps according to new data and imagery which will capture changes in the region such as new high-water marks.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 5,000,000
	FTE	-

General Government

36 Elections	Requirements	\$ -
S.L. 2024-51, The Disaster Recovery Act of 2024, allocated \$5 million to the State Board of Elections for technology, printing and communications, temporary staff for eligible county and State boards of elections, mobile voting units, and certain costs associated with voting sites, including early voting sites.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ -
	FTE	-
37 Local Government Cash Flow Loans	Requirements	\$ 100,000,000 NR
Allocates funds to the Department of State Treasurer for the Local Government Commission to administer a cash flow loan program to support local governments in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 100,000,000
	FTE	-
38 Line of Duty Death Benefits	Requirements	\$ 500,000 NR
Allocates funds to the Department of State Treasurer to pay line of duty death benefits under Article 12A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 500,000
	FTE	-

Total Legislative Changes

Requirements	\$ 1,290,150,000
Less: Receipts	\$ 686,000,000
Net Change	\$ 604,150,000
FTE	-

23009-OSBM Disaster Relief Reserve

Legislative Changes

PTC8 and TS Debby

39 State Matching Funds for State and Local Governments for PTC8 and Tropical Storm Debby	Requirements	\$ 40,000,000 NR
Provides funding to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) for a transfer to NCEM to provide State match for federal disaster assistance programs. The estimated federal receipts assume a 75/25 federal match rate.	Less: Receipts	\$ 30,000,000 NR
	Net Appropriation	\$ 10,000,000
	FTE	-

Hurricane Florence

40 Florence Homeowners Recovery Program Needs	Requirements	\$ 30,000,000 NR
Provides funding to OSBM for a transfer to the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) to support homeowner recovery projects under the Rebuild NC program.	Less: Receipts	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 30,000,000
	FTE	-

Total Legislative Changes

Requirements	\$ 70,000,000
Less: Receipts	\$ 30,000,000
Net Change	\$ 40,000,000
FTE	-