

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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S.B. 281  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45148-MCa-125

Short Title: Essential Relief for Child Care Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Chitlik, Robinson, and Bradley (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE STABILIZATION GRANTS.  
3 Whereas, accessible child care is essential for the continued growth of North  
4 Carolina's economy; and  
5 Whereas, there is bipartisan consensus that child care must be a focus of the  
6 2025-2027 legislative biennium; and  
7 Whereas, one in five employers cite child care issues as a barrier to hiring; and  
8 Whereas, the cost of operating a child care facility continues to rise even as parents'  
9 ability to afford it declines; and  
10 Whereas, child care providers and the families they serve have not recovered from  
11 the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and  
12 Whereas, the failure to continue to provide for child care stabilization grants will lead  
13 to the closure of an estimated 20% of all child care facilities in our State within the next year;  
14 and  
15 Whereas, we affirm that State investment in our child care providers is an investment  
16 in the economic development of current and future generations; Now, therefore,  
17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
18 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
19 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), the  
20 sum of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to  
21 continue the compensation grants portion of the child care stabilization grants. The Division shall  
22 continue the compensation grants portion of the child care stabilization grants through the fourth  
23 quarter at the current 2024-2025 fiscal year level.  
24 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

