

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.B. 665  
Apr 1, 2025  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

H

D

HOUSE BILL DRH10303-NHa-162

Short Title: DPI Disaster Preparedness Fund.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Greenfield.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FUND.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
5 Article to read:

6 "Article 38D.

7 "Public School Disaster Preparedness.

8 **"§ 115C-546.50. Fund created; administration.**

9 (a) There is created the Public School Disaster Preparedness Fund. The Fund shall be  
10 administered by the Department of Public Instruction and shall be used to provide funds to  
11 schools in areas at high risk of experiencing natural disasters to improve or replace existing  
12 school structures in an effort to mitigate the damage to those structures from future weather  
13 events.

14 (b) This Fund shall be a nonreverting special revenue fund consisting of any monies  
15 appropriated to it by the General Assembly.

16 **"§ 115C-546.51. Fund disbursements; allowable uses.**

17 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to determine the disbursement of the  
18 Public School Disaster Preparedness Fund. At a minimum, the rules shall include:

19 (1) The system that will be relied upon to determine the level of risk in an area.

20 (2) A template for local school administrative units to use to develop disaster  
21 preparedness plans. As used in this section, a "disaster preparedness plan" is  
22 the plan in which a local school administrative unit identifies the structures  
23 that will be improved or replaced, the risk posed to those structures, and the  
24 plan to improve or replace the structure.

25 (3) The standard of increased preparedness schools are intended to achieve with  
26 disaster preparedness funds.

27 (4) The system by which the State Board of Education will evaluate a school's  
28 disaster preparedness plan.

29 (b) The Department of Public Instruction shall develop and publish an application  
30 through which local school administrative units may apply to receive a distribution from the  
31 Public School Disaster Preparedness Fund. At a minimum, the application shall require local  
32 school administrative units to provide a copy of the disaster preparedness plan and an estimate  
33 of the cost of the plan.

34 (c) The Department shall accept applications on a rolling basis. Once received, the  
35 application shall be evaluated by the School Planning Section and the School Planning Section  
36 shall present the application with a recommendation on whether the application meets the goals



\* D R H 1 0 3 0 3 - N H A - 1 6 2 \*

1 set by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall then vote to approve or  
2 reject the application at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education. If  
3 the application is approved by unanimous vote of the State Board of Education, then the  
4 Department shall disburse the amount of funding approved by the State Board of Education to  
5 the approved local school administrative unit.

6 **"§ 115C-546.52. Reporting requirements.**

7 (a) No later than December 15 of each year that a local school administrative unit is in  
8 receipt of a disbursement from the Public School Disaster Preparedness Fund, the local school  
9 administrative unit shall provide the Department of Public Instruction a report on any funds that  
10 have been expended or committed, the remaining balance of funds available, and a detailed report  
11 of the progress made toward completing the disaster preparedness plan.

12 (b) No later than February 15 of each year, the Department of Public Instruction shall  
13 report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on any disbursements made from  
14 the Fund, including the local school administrative unit that received the funds and the amount  
15 received, a copy of any disaster preparedness plans currently being funded, a progress report on  
16 any disaster preparedness plans being carried out, and an overview of completed disaster  
17 preparedness plans."

18 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
19 Public Instruction the sum of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for  
20 the 2025-2026 fiscal year to establish and administer the Public School Disaster Preparedness  
21 Fund under Article 38D of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, as enacted by this act.

22 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.