



# NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Session 2019

## Fiscal Analysis Memorandum

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Requestor:** Representative Howard  
**Analyst(s):** Jane Chiulli  
**RE:** Time Limit Waiver for ABAWD Participating in FNS Program

### SUMMARY TABLE

#### FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL DRAFT 2019-LUa-179B (\$ in thousands)

	<u>FY 2020-21</u>	<u>FY 2021-22</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
<b>State Impact</b>					
General Fund Revenue	25.0	-	-	-	-
Less Expenditures	50.0	-	-	-	-
<b>General Fund Impact</b>	<b>(25.0)</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>NET STATE IMPACT</b>	<b>(\$25.0)</b>	-	-	-	-

### FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

The proposed legislation would increase General Fund appropriations by \$25,000. However, analysis suggests that allowing the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to seek a temporary time limit waiver for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) participating in the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Program would have no fiscal impact.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

The federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 limits the time an ABAWD can receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to three months in any 36-month period, unless the individual meets the ABAWD work requirement or is otherwise exempt. The Act also provides that a state may request to waive the time limit for individuals in all or part of the state if the requested area demonstrates high unemployment or a lack of sufficient jobs. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has suspended ABAWD time limits due to the COVID-19 pandemic, applicable from April 1, 2020 through the end of the federal public health emergency declaration.

G.S. 108A-51.1 prohibits DHHS from seeking waivers to the federal time limit for FNS benefits for ABAWD required to fulfill work requirements. The proposed legislation would allow DHHS to seek a temporary time limit waiver for the period following the end of the federal public health emergency declaration.



FNS benefits are 100% federally funded. Costs to administer FNS benefits at the State level are 50% federal/50% State funds, and costs to administer benefits at the county level are 50% federal/50% county funds. Analysis suggests the temporary time limit waiver would have no impact on benefit administration at the State level and would have a marginal impact at the county level that could be managed within existing staffing levels. As a result, the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact on benefit administration costs.

## **TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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N/A

## **DATA SOURCES**

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N/A

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS MEMORANDUM – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS**

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