

1 **SECTION 2.2.** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the Helene Fund the
2 sum of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026
3 fiscal year, as follows:

- 4 (1) One hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) to the Department of
5 Commerce, Division of Community Revitalization, for the Home
6 Reconstruction and Repair Program (Program). The Program shall be
7 CDBG-DR compliant and consistent with the United States Department of
8 Housing and Urban Development's Universal Notice in 90 FR 1754 to ensure
9 maximum reimbursement from federal funds when those funds become
10 available.
- 11 (2) One hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) to the Department of
12 Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Soil & Water Conservation,
13 for the following purposes:
- 14 a. Natural restoration projects that enable farmers in the affected area to
15 resume production and protect communities against additional flood
16 damage. Eligible projects include stream debris removal, streambank
17 stabilization, stream restoration, cropland restoration, farm road
18 repair, and reconstruction of best management practices.
- 19 b. Cost-share, engineering, and technical assistance for eligible projects.
20 The Department may use these funds across programs to maximize impact
21 and federal funding.
- 22 (3) One hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) to NCEM for the Private Road
23 and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program in accordance with Section 2.3
24 of this act.
- 25 (4) Sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) to OSBM to allocate for the repair and
26 renovation of State facilities damaged by Hurricane Helene, including repairs
27 to State parks, State forests, health care facilities, and other facilities that
28 suffered damage. These funds shall also be used to repair the two State
29 correctional institutions in western North Carolina that closed due to damage
30 from Hurricane Helene. Federal funds shall be used to complete these projects
31 where possible.
- 32 (5) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to OSBM to distribute to State agencies
33 and units of local government for debris removal unmet needs. The Governor's
34 Recovery Office for Western North Carolina (GROW-NC) and NCEM shall
35 assist OSBM in coordinating the debris removal with relevant State agencies
36 and local stakeholders. OSBM shall prioritize using these funds to address
37 identified gaps in debris cleanup not met by other federal and State programs.
- 38 (6) Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to NCEM to provide grants to Volunteer
39 Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) assisting with disaster response
40 and recovery efforts in the affected area.
- 41 (7) Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to
42 disburse as grants to small and volunteer fire departments in the affected area
43 to cover expenses incurred due to Hurricane Helene and to purchase
44 equipment or make capital improvements to assist with readiness for future
45 emergency response.

46 **SECTION 2.3.(a)** Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program. – The
47 Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program (Program) is established within
48 NCEM to disburse grants for the repair and replacement of private roads and bridges damaged
49 or destroyed by Hurricane Helene. NCEM shall consult with the Department of Transportation
50 in administering the Program and shall develop criteria and an application process to select
51 private roads and bridges eligible for repair or replacement consistent with this subsection.

1 NCEM shall prioritize applications for the repair and replacement of private roads or bridges that
2 provide the sole option for ingress and egress for (i) emergency services to a residential property
3 that is occupied by the owner for more than six months of the calendar year, (ii) multiple
4 residential homes, or (iii) recreation or commercial facilities. These funds may also be used to
5 provide technical support and assistance for individuals and local governments to comply with
6 no-rise certification requirements required by FEMA under the National Flood Insurance
7 Program.

8 **SECTION 2.3.(b) Federal Funding.** – If federal assistance or alternative funds are
9 available for the same purposes in subsection (a) of this section, NCEM shall not duplicate efforts
10 or benefits and take all reasonable steps to obtain that federal assistance or alternative funds prior
11 to obligating funds for the Program with State funds.

12 **SECTION 2.3.(c) Reporting Requirement.** – NCEM shall annually report to the Joint
13 Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division
14 beginning on June 30, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2029, on the Program. The report shall
15 include, at a minimum, all of the following:

- 16 (1) The criteria used for awarding funds.
- 17 (2) The locations of any roads or bridges replaced.
- 18 (3) The average grant amount requested and disbursed.
- 19 (4) The number of projects requested, declined, and funded.
- 20 (5) The identification of unmet needs remaining at the end of each fiscal year for
21 private road or bridge repair or replacement.

22 23 **PART III. EXTENSION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY**

24 **SECTION 3.1.** In accordance with G.S. 166A-19.20(c)(2), the statewide declaration
25 of emergency issued by the Governor in Executive Order No. 315, concurred to by the Council
26 of State, and extended by Section 3.1 of S.L. 2024-51, is further extended until June 1, 2025.

27 28 **PART IV. REVERSION, LIMITATION, AND REPORTING OF FUNDS**

29 **SECTION 4.1.(a) Reversion.** – Except as otherwise provided, funds appropriated
30 under Part II of this act shall revert to the Savings Reserve if not expended or encumbered by
31 June 30, 2030.

32 **SECTION 4.1.(b) Receipt of Allocations.** – A recipient of State funds under this act
33 shall use best efforts and take all reasonable steps to obtain alternative funds that cover the losses
34 or needs for which the State funds are provided, including funds from insurance policies in effect
35 and available federal aid. State funds paid under this act are declared to be excess over funds
36 received by a recipient from the settlement of a claim for loss or damage covered under the
37 recipient's applicable insurance policy in effect or federal aid. Where a recipient is an institution
38 of higher education or a non-State entity, the requirement regarding alternative funds, and the
39 calculation of alternative funds received, under this subsection includes seeking private donations
40 to help cover the losses or needs for which State funds are provided. An agency awarding State
41 funds for disaster relief shall include a notice to the recipient of the requirements of this
42 subsection.

43 **SECTION 4.1.(c) Remittance of Funds.** – If a recipient obtains alternative funds
44 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the recipient shall remit the funds to the State agency
45 from which the State funds were received. A recipient is not required to remit any amount in
46 excess of the State funds provided to the recipient under this act. The State agency shall transfer
47 these funds to the Savings Reserve.

48 **SECTION 4.1.(d) Contract Requirements.** – Any contract or other instrument
49 entered into by a recipient for receipt of funds under this act shall include the requirements set
50 forth in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

1 **SECTION 4.1.(e)** Limitation on Powers of Governor. – The Governor may not use
2 the funds described in this act to make budget adjustments under G.S. 143C-6-4 or to make
3 reallocations under G.S. 166A-19.40(c). Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the
4 Governor from exercising the Governor's authority under these statutes with respect to funds
5 other than those described in this act.

6 **SECTION 4.1.(f)** Directive. – The Governor shall ensure that funds allocated in this
7 act are expended in a manner that does not adversely affect any person's or entity's eligibility for
8 federal funds that are made available, or that are anticipated to be made available, as a result of
9 natural disasters. The Governor shall also, to the extent practicable, avoid using State funds to
10 cover costs that will be, or likely will be, covered by federal funds.

11 **SECTION 4.1.(g)** Allocation Reporting Requirements. – Beginning May 15, 2025,
12 for the previous quarter, OSBM shall report to the chairs of the House of Representatives and
13 Senate Appropriations Committees and to the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly
14 on the implementation of this act on a quarterly basis until the end of the quarter in which all
15 funds are expended and shall also provide any additional reports or information requested by the
16 Fiscal Research Division. In reporting on the use of State disaster recovery and assistance funds
17 expended pursuant to this act and federal funds received by State agencies for disaster relief and
18 recovery efforts, OSBM shall include, regardless of which State agency, federal agency, or
19 non-State entity that administers the funds, all of the following for each program:

- 20 (1) The purpose of the program.
- 21 (2) The responsible department or agency.
- 22 (3) Current, year-to-date, and total cumulative funds appropriated, received from
23 non-State sources, expended, encumbered, and obligated by program and by
24 source of funds.
- 25 (4) A summary of activities.
- 26 (5) The total program spending by county, where practicable.
- 27 (6) Funds returned to the Savings Reserve pursuant to subsection (c) of this
28 section, as applicable.

29 Non-State entities that administer or receive any funds appropriated in this act shall
30 assist and fully cooperate with OSBM in meeting OSBM's obligations under this section.

31 **SECTION 4.1.(h)** Relationship to Previous Reporting Requirements. – Subsection
32 (g) of this section supersedes Section 7.1(h) of S.L. 2024-51, as amended by Section 5.6 of S.L.
33 2024-53, and Section 3.1(g) of S.L. 2024-53 (collectively, the prior reporting requirements). In
34 cases of any conflict between the prior reporting requirements and subsection (g) of this section,
35 the language in subsection (g) of this section shall prevail.

36 37 **PART V. DISASTER RECOVERY REGULATORY AND PROCUREMENT** 38 **FLEXIBILITY**

39 40 **EXTENSION OF EXPIRATION DATES FOR CERTAIN REGULATORY** 41 **FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS**

42 **SECTION 5.1.** The following provisions of S.L. 2024-51 (Helene I), S.L. 2024-53
43 (Helene II), and S.L. 2024-57 (Helene III) providing regulatory flexibility and (i) expiring,
44 ending, or otherwise limited in applicability, on any day of March 2025 or (ii) for which no
45 expiration date is specified are, notwithstanding any provisions of those acts to the contrary,
46 extended to the date of expiration of the statewide declaration of emergency issued by the
47 Governor in Executive Order No. 315, concurred to by the Council of State, and extended
48 pursuant to S.L. 2024-51, this act, or any other enactment of a general law:

- 49 (1) Helene I:
 - 50 a. Section 10.1 ("Funding Flexibility for Drinking Water and Wastewater
51 Infrastructure Projects").

- 1 b. Section 10.3 ("Storm Debris Open Burning Regulatory Relief").
2 c. Section 16.1 ("Extend Grace Period for Corporations, Nonprofits, and
3 LLCs in FEMA-Designated Counties to Correct Grounds for
4 Administrative Dissolution").
5 (2) Helene II:
6 a. Section 4E.1 ("Authorize State Agencies to Exercise Regulatory
7 Flexibility for Employment-Related Certifications").
8 b. Section 4E.3 ("Flexibility for Building Permit Issuance/Inspections in
9 Disaster Area").
10 (3) Helene III:
11 a. Section 1C.1 ("Extension of MH/DD/SUS Facility Licenses and
12 License Renewal Deadlines").
13 b. Section 1C.3 ("Extension of Registrations and Registration Renewal
14 Deadlines for Multiunit Assisted Housing with Services Facilities").
15 c. Section 1C.4 ("Extension of Adult Care Home and Family Care Home
16 Licenses and License Renewal Deadlines").
17 d. Section 1C.5 ("Extension of Deadline for Renewal of Adult Care
18 Home Administrator Certification and Completion of Continuing
19 Education Requirements").
20 e. Section 1D.6 ("Temporary Pump and Haul Wastewater Permits").
21 f. Section 1D.7 ("Authorize Waiver of Submission and Approval of
22 Sedimentation Pollution Control Plan Prior to Initiation of
23 Land-Disturbing Activities in Certain Circumstances").
24 g. Section 1D.8 ("Tree Ordinance Restriction in Disaster Declared
25 Counties").
26 h. Section 1E.1 ("Extend Certain Concealed Handgun Permits").
27 i. Section 1F.4 ("Authorize the Office of the State Fire Marshal to
28 Promulgate Rules for Temporary Manufactured and Modular
29 Dwellings").
30

31 PART VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

32 EFFECT OF HEADINGS

34 **SECTION 6.1.** The headings to the parts and sections of this act are a convenience
35 to the reader and are for reference only. The headings do not expand, limit, or define the text of
36 this act, except for effective dates referring to a part or section.
37

38 SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

39 **SECTION 6.2.** If any section or provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or
40 invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part other than
41 the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.
42

43 EFFECTIVE DATE

44 **SECTION 6.3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
45 law.