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NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: May 29, 2020

[Legislative Calendar for the NC General Assembly](#)

[Audio for Meetings](#)

Budget Status:

“Because it is such a tight fiscal year, we’re going to have to be very fiscally prudent, and any dollars we spend, we spend on absolutely necessary expenses,” is a quote from NC Rep. Donny Lambeth in a May 26, 2020 article in the *News & Observer* (<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article243008661.html>).

His comment was made at a joint Appropriations meeting where legislators heard that there is an approximately \$4 billion shortfall in the budget due to not meeting budgeted amounts in revenue and other impact from the pandemic. That sums up the situation that legislators are facing as they develop the budget for SFY20-21. Given this information, it would seem more important than ever that legislators clearly understand what budget items are important to their constituents.

Below are some helpful links to contact your legislators:

[Representation by County for House](#)
[House Member Contacts Alphabetical](#)
[Representation by County for Senate](#)
[Senate Member Contacts Alphabetical](#)

Additional Benefits and Resources:

- NC DHHS announced on May 22nd, that families that participate in the Work First Cash Assistance program will receive a supplement of \$265 per child to assist in paying for basic necessities. For more information: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-provides-one-time-payment-families-children-work-first-cash-assistance>
- NC Department of Public Instruction has been posting [YouTube videos](#) providing answers to frequently asked questions about the impact of COVID-19 on education.
- The Office of Special Education Programs is offering a free webinar on June 4th from 2 pm – 3 pm entitled, “Resources For Teachers and Parents to Enhance the Continuity of Learning During COVID-19 for Children with Disabilities”. Register at this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2967836277728914189>

- The statewide ECAC office has a [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) with links to information for parents.

Bills On the Move:

[S476](#), School-Based Mental Health (formerly Compt-Based Assess. & Mental Health/Teen Viol.), Passed Senate and House, Ratified

[S708](#), CPS Intake Screen/PED Recommendations: prohibits county departments of social services from making child protective policies more stringent than the state policies. Heard in Senate Judiciary

[S836](#), State Operations/Increase Federal Funds Use: This bill authorizes the transfer of \$1.575 billion from the State’s Reserve and \$150 million from the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Fund to allow for continuity of operations in certain areas. \$370 m will be used for wages, overtime, personal protective equipment, in-home monitoring and other supplies for State entities such as mental health institutions, prisons, community corrections, juvenile facilities, and veteran’s homes. Reported Favorably by State Appropriations, re-referred to Senate Rules

[H471](#), Reduce Admin. Duplication MH/DD/SAS Providers: DHHS directed to establish a work group that will make recommendations on administrative burdens that could be eliminated in MH/IDD/SUD provision of services. Passed House, Reported favorably committee substitute by Senate Health

[H678](#), Amend Counselor/SA/Social Work Professional Acts: changes some wording to “clinical mental health professional”, allows Boards to establish support programs in substance use and mental health, restructures the SA Professional Practice Board. Heard in Senate Health Care

[H1187](#), Raise the Age Funding: Provides funding for capital improvements at Department of Public Safety facilities that are implementing Raise the Age. Passed House, Referred to Senate Appropriations

[H1208](#), Funding for Workforce Housing Loan Program: Transfers funds to be used in the Program. Passed by House, Referred to Senate Appropriations

NC Bills introduced in 2020 Long Session:

[S708/H1048](#), prohibits county Departments of Social Services from implementing more stringent child protective services than the State requires. Referred to Senate Judiciary/House Judiciary

[S765](#), Education Omnibus, includes \$2.9 m from the Coronavirus Relief Fund for Extended School Year Services for exceptional children, referred to Senate Rules

[S808](#), Medicaid Transformation Necessities, referred to Senate Appropriations

[S826/H1135](#), Housing and Utilities Assistance/COVID-19, \$100 million non-recurring for housing and housing utilities assistance, referred to Senate Appropriations/House Finance

[S827/H1134](#), Housing and Foreclosure Prevention Assistance, establishes an Emergency Housing Office within DHHS, Senate Appropriations/House Finance

[S845](#), Successful Transition/Foster Care Youth, \$500,000 to implement the Foster Care Transitional Living Initiative Fund. Referred to Senate Appropriations

[S859](#), Student Internet Connectivity Act, \$176 million to expand the School Connectivity Initiative to 2 provide home mobile Internet access points for students, Referred to Senate Rules

[H1035](#), Education Omnibus, COVID-19, provisions related to class sizes, testing, etc., reported favorably by House Education Committee, re-referred to House Rules

[H1037](#), COVID-19 Health Care Working Group Policy Rec., considerable overlap with provisions in the new law (S704), Reported favorably by House Health Committee, re-referred to House Rules

[H1039](#), COVID-19 Response Act - Economic Support, provisions related to unemployment, Reported favorably by House Commerce Committee, re-referred to House Rules

[H1040](#), Healthcare for Working North Carolinians, provisions to address the gap in insurance coverage for working individuals aged 19-64, Referred to House Rules

[H1046](#), COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave, provisions allowing for paid sick leave related to COVID-19 in organizations of 500+ employees and includes provision addressing retaliation by employer and violations. Referred to House Finance

[H1071](#), State/Federal Funds for School Connectivity, \$4.6 m recurring/\$15 m non-recurring for SFY20-21. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1122](#), Provide Affordable Broadband Access to NC, grants for mobile hotspots, provides authority for health insurance to cover telehealth “including mental and behavioral healthcare”. Referred to House Rules

[H1132](#), Study on K-12 Student Retention, forms a study committee that includes school psychologist and counselor reps. Referred to House Education, K-12

[H1181](#), Certain Appropriations for Education/COVID, allocates \$405 million for internet access, grants, etc. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1182](#), Funds for Educational Entities/COVID, providing “sufficient funds” to address impact of COVID-19 on education. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1187](#), Raise the Age Funding, \$10.44 million transferred from the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Fund for renovations and improvements of certain Youth Detention Centers. Passed House, Referred to Senate Appropriations

[H1188](#), TANF Benefit Increase/COVID-19, \$13.2 million to give supplemental support for TANF beneficiaries. Referred to House Rules

[H1192](#), Student Health Collaborative Pilot, \$5 million to DSS to work with DMH and DPI and allow for grants in five counties. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1196](#), Funds/COVID-19 Tests & PPE for Congregate Lvg, \$12 m to purchase diagnostic tests and personal protective equipment. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1204](#), Funds for Statewide Telepsychiatry Program, Program would be through East Carolina University Center for Telepsychiatry and e-Behavioral Health. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1206/S844](#), Student Mental Health Well-Being/COVID-19, \$480 m to increase the number of school mental health support staff. Referred to House Rules

[H1214](#), Department of Health and Human Svcs Revisions.-AB, gives Secretary authority to adjust the base budget allocations for Single Stream Funding among other things. Referred to House Health

[H1227](#), Ensure Awareness of Assistance Programs/COVID, \$2 million to ensure that children and families are connected to all federally funded public assistance programs for which they are eligible. Referred to House Rules

NC Bills still in action from 2019 Long Session:

- [H5](#): Close the Medicaid Insurance Gap (see S3)
 - [H76](#): School Safety Omnibus
 - [H102](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see S245)
 - [H121](#): Expunction Related to Raise the Age/No Conviction
 - [H234](#): Funds for Child Advocacy Centers
 - [H241](#): Education Bond Act of 2019
 - [H250](#): Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions
 - [H291](#): Continue Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Work Group (SSWG) and Extend Children's Council
 - [H297](#): Psychologist Interjurisdictional Compact
 - [H434](#): Suicide Risk Ref./Mental Health/Teen Violence
 - [H471](#): Reduce Administrative Duplication MH/DD/SAS Providers
 - [H555](#): Medicaid Transformation Implementation, the Senate has withdrawn this bill from the calendar and re-referred it to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
 - [H580](#): Increase Foster Care Rates/Funds (see S636)
 - [H601](#): Funds for NAMI North Carolina, Inc.
 - [H613](#): Essential Services for Homeless Youth
 - [H655](#): NC Health Care for Working Families, the bill was re-referred to the House Committee on Health, received a favorable committee substitute, and was re-referred to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations.
 - [H702](#): Modify Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (see S555)
 - [H822](#): Comprehensive Behavioral Health Plan, the bill has been sent to the Senate, passed the 1st Senate reading, and has been sent to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
 - [H825](#): Strengthen Child Fatality Prevention System: passed first reading and referred to the House Committee on Health.
 - [H826](#): Standardized Assessment/Foster Care Pilot
 - [H956](#): Funds/Youth Villages and Other Purposes
 - [H966](#): 2019 Appropriations Act, this bill was placed on the calendar for January 14, 2020, withdrawn from the calendar and re-referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
 - [H1038](#): Omnibus COVID-19 Response Funds: passed the first reading and re-referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.
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- [S3](#): Close the Medicaid Insurance Gap (see H5)
 - [S175](#): Funds/Eliminate NC Pre-K Waitlist
 - [S212](#): NC Fast/Early Child/Transformation/ACH Assess., the conference committees have been appointed.
 - [S245](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see H102)
 - [S251](#): Modernization of Drug Court Programs

[S361](#): Healthy NC., the Senate failed to concur on the health committee substitution, so the Senate and House have appointed committee conferees for the bill.

[S382](#): School Psychologist Compensation and Recruitment (see H482)

[S427](#): Smart Start Funds (see H124)

[S476](#): School-Based Mental Health, Ratified

[S549](#): Child Welfare/Behavioral Health Pilot/Funds

[S624](#): Guilford County Mental Health Facility /Funds (see H360)

[S636](#): Increase Foster Care Rates/Funds (see H580)

[S740](#): COVID-19 Recovery Act: passed the third Senate reading, passed the 1st House reading, and referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

[S834](#), Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap/Funds, Expands Medicaid and provides \$100,000 for DHHS to prepare. Referred to Senate Rules