

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 1034

Short Title: Funds for Smart Start Healthy Dev. Initiative. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dobson, Malone, White, and Potts (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Appropriations

May 31, 2018

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP FOR
3 CHILDREN, INC., FOR AN INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE YOUNG CHILDREN'S
4 HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

5 Whereas, children are born ready to learn but may not have access to the experiences
6 or environments that foster healthy brain development; and

7 Whereas, young children learn and grow in strong families where parents are able to
8 successfully face the challenge of caring for their children while meeting their work and other
9 responsibilities; and

10 Whereas, studies of parent education, family support, and home visiting programs
11 have been shown to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect,
12 encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness; and

13 Whereas, North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., (Smart Start) local
14 partnerships have administered parent education, family support, and home visiting programs
15 since 1993 and use community-based, data-driven decision making to improve the health,
16 well-being, and development of children based on the needs and resources of their local
17 communities; and

18 Whereas, Smart Start provides fiscal and programmatic oversight of all services
19 administered through local partnerships and reports annually to the General Assembly on
20 outcomes for children; Now, therefore,

21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
23 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of
24 ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to be allocated to the North
25 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., for an initiative to promote young children's healthy
26 development. Funds allocated to the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., pursuant to
27 this section shall be used for (i) evidence-based parent education programs that give parents tools
28 to increase their knowledge of early childhood development and positive parenting practices and
29 (ii) evidence-based home visiting programs that help parents by providing education,
30 information, and resources.

31 **SECTION 1.(b)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., may use up to
32 two percent (2%) of the funds appropriated under this section for statewide program management
33 and evaluation. Funds appropriated under this section shall not be subject to administrative cost
34 requirements under Section 11B.8(b) of S.L. 2017-57, nor shall these funds be subject to the
35 child care services funding requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(b), child care subsidy



1 expansion requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(g), or the match requirements under Section
2 11B.8(d) of S.L. 2017-57.

3 **SECTION 1.(c)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall report on
4 the success of the healthy development initiative, including any recommendations, to the Joint
5 Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by March 1, 2019. The report
6 shall include preliminary outcomes associated with the initiative.

7 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2018.