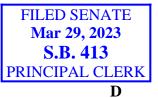
## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023



## SENATE BILL DRS15185-LUa-124B

| Short Title: | Funds/Dolly Parton Imagination Lib./Childcare.         | (Public) |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Sponsors:    | Senators Burgin, Krawiec, and Hise (Primary Sponsors). |          |
| Referred to: |                                                        |          |

| 1  | A BILL TO BE ENTITLED                                                                               |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | AN ACT TO INCREASE FUNDING TO DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY                                    |
| 3  | AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPROVE CHILD CARE ACCESS.                                              |
| 4  | The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:                                                      |
| 5  |                                                                                                     |
| 6  | PART I. FUNDS FOR DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY                                                |
| 7  | <b>SECTION 1.1.</b> There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of                |
| 8  | Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of            |
| 9  | one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in recurring funds for each year of the     |
| 10 | 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to be allocated to the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.,     |
| 11 | for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an early literacy program that mails age-appropriate        |
| 12 | books to registered children on a monthly basis.                                                    |
| 13 |                                                                                                     |
| 14 | PART II. INCREASE CAPACITY, ACCESS, AND AFFORDABILITY FOR FAMILIES                                  |
| 15 | SECTION 2.1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of                       |
| 16 | Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), the        |
| 17 | sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year    |
| 18 | for a child care infrastructure study to be performed by a North Carolina nonprofit foundation      |
| 19 | having expertise with employers in different industries from across the State. The nonprofit        |
| 20 | foundation selected to conduct the study shall analyze innovative State-based options that engage   |
| 21 | employers in solutions that meet the child care infrastructure, capital, and workforce needs with   |
| 22 | a focus on promoting child care accessibility and affordability. The Division shall submit a report |
| 23 | on the study to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by           |
| 24 | December 1, 2024.                                                                                   |
| 25 | SECTION 2.2. Effective October 1, 2023, Section 9C.4(a) of S.L. 2021-180 reads                      |
| 26 | as rewritten:                                                                                       |
| 27 | "SECTION 9C.4.(a) The maximum gross annual income for initial eligibility, adjusted                 |
| 28 | annually, for subsidized child care services shall be determined based on a percentage of the       |
| 29 | federal poverty level as follows:                                                                   |
| 30 | AGE INCOME PERCENTAGE LEVEL                                                                         |
| 31 | 0-5 200%                                                                                            |
| 32 | 6-12 133%                                                                                           |
| 33 | The eligibility for any child with special needs, including a child who is 13 years of age or       |
| 34 | older, shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the State Median Income. The child of an individual   |
| 35 | employed by or with an employment offer and designated start date from a licensed child care        |
|    |                                                                                                     |
|    |                                                                                                     |

\* D R S 1 5 1 8 5 - L U A - 1 2 4 B \*

## **General Assembly Of North Carolina**

- 1 <u>facility in this State is deemed eligible for the subsidized child care program and is not subject to</u>
- 2 the income eligibility requirements of this subsection."
- 3 4

## PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE

- 5 SECTION 3.1. Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective July 1,
- 6 2023.