

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 718

Short Title: Early Childhood Initiatives.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Easterling, Nye, H. Hunter; Alexander, Baddour, Barnhill, Beall, Black, Bowman, Braswell, D. Brown, Burton, Church, Cole, Colton, Crawford, Cummings, Cunningham, DeVane, Dickson, Edwards, Fitch, Flaherty, Gottovi, Green, Griffin, Hackney, Hall, Hensley, Holt, Jack Hunt, Judy Hunt, R. Hunter, Ives, James, Jarrell, Jeffus, Joye, Kennedy, Kinney, Kuczarski, Lemmond, Luebke, Lutz, McAllister, McCrary, McLaughlin, McLawhorn, Michaux, G. Miller, Moore, Oldham, Ramsey, Redwine, Richardson, Rogers, Spears, Stamey, Sutton, G. Thompson, R. Thompson, Wainwright, Warner, Wilkins, and Wilmoth.

Referred to: Children, Youth and Families.

April 1, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. (a) Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"PART 10B. EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES.

"§ 143B-168.10. Early childhood initiatives; findings.

The General Assembly finds, upon consultation with the Governor, that every child can benefit from, and should have access to, high quality childhood education and development services. The economic future and well-being of the State depend upon it. Throughout the State, however, a shortage of high quality, comprehensive programs is approaching crisis proportions. The effects of this crisis cut across all boundaries of race, sex, and income.

"§ 143B-168.11. Early childhood initiatives; intent; North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

It is the intent of the General Assembly, upon consultation with the Governor, to support through financial and other means, the North Carolina Partnership for Children,

1 Inc., a nonprofit corporation, which has as its mission the development of a
2 comprehensive, long-range strategic vision for early childhood development and the
3 provision, through public and private means, of high quality early childhood education
4 and development services for children and families.

5 **"§ 143B-168.12. Early childhood initiatives; North Carolina Partnership for**
6 **Children, Inc.; conditions; powers and duties; local demonstration**
7 **projects; statewide needs and resource assessment; rule making;**
8 **reporting requirements.**

9 (a) As a condition for receiving funds appropriated to the North Carolina
10 Partnership for Children, Inc., members of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina
11 Partnership for Children, Inc., shall consist of four ex officio members and 25 appointed
12 members. The four ex officio members shall be the Secretary of the Department of
13 Human Resources, the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and
14 Natural Resources, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the President of the
15 Department of Community Colleges. The appointed members shall be appointed as
16 follows: eight by the General Assembly, four upon the recommendation of the Speaker
17 of the House of Representatives and four upon recommendation of the President Pro
18 Tempore of the Senate, and 17 by the Governor.

19 (b) As a condition for receiving funding appropriated to it, the North Carolina
20 Partnership for Children, Inc., shall oversee the development and implementation of
21 initial local demonstration projects as follows: 12 during the 1993-94 fiscal year and an
22 additional eight during the 1994-95 fiscal year. Each demonstration project shall be
23 coordinated by a new local, private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization responsible for
24 developing a comprehensive, collaborative, long-range plan of services to children and
25 families in the service-delivery area. The board of directors of each local nonprofit
26 organization shall consist of no more than 20 members, including representatives of
27 public and private nonprofit health and human service agencies, day care providers, the
28 business community, foundations, county and municipal governments, local education
29 units, and families. The Department of Human Resources, in cooperation with the
30 North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., may specify in its requests for
31 applications the local agencies that shall be represented on the Board.

32 The Department of Human Resources shall develop a statewide process, in
33 cooperation with the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., to select the local
34 demonstration projects. The 12 local demonstration projects developed and
35 implemented during the 1993-94 fiscal year shall be located in the 12 congressional
36 districts, one to a district.

37 An existing local, private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in the community may
38 apply to serve as the coordinator of a demonstration project if the governance of the
39 project meets the objective of decision making by a broad range of public and private
40 health and human services providers.

41 (c) Funds appropriated to be allocated to the local demonstration projects for
42 services to children and families shall be used to expand coverage and improve the
43 quality of services. These funds shall not be allocated to any local demonstration
44 project until the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, upon

1 recommendation of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., has approved its
2 final local plan.

3 (d) Funds appropriated to support the local strategic planning process and
4 activities of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., the local nonprofit
5 organizations, and start-up and related activities shall be available for these purposes
6 upon the effective date of enactment of this Part.

7 (e) Communities shall be given the maximum flexibility and discretion
8 practicable in developing their plans. Depending on local, regional, or statewide needs,
9 funds may be used to support such activities and services as day care services, start-up
10 funding, conforming to licensing and building code requirements, in-home visitation,
11 parent training programs, quality enhancement, technical assistance, needs and resource
12 assessments, infant tracking, evaluation, child care resource and referral services,
13 educational enrichment, staff and organizational development, leadership and
14 administrative development, technology assisted education, strategic 'visioning' and
15 planning processes, and other appropriate services, including local administrative
16 support.

17 (f) The Department of Human Resources, in cooperation with the North Carolina
18 Partnership for Children, Inc., shall develop a needs and resource assessment for each of
19 the counties unserved by the demonstration projects. Of the funds appropriated to it to
20 implement this Part, the Department may make available up to ten thousand dollars
21 (\$10,000) per county for one year to an appropriate private nonprofit entity or to the
22 county to perform this assessment.

23 (g) The Department of Human Resources, in cooperation with the North Carolina
24 Partnership for Children, Inc., shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section.

25 (h) The Department of Human Resources shall report to the General Assembly
26 and the Governor by April 1, 1994, and by March, 1, 1995, on the results of all the local
27 demonstration projects' work, including all details of the use to which the allocations
28 were put, and on the continuing plans of the North Carolina Partnership for Children,
29 Inc., and of the Department of Human Resources, together with legislative proposals,
30 including proposals to implement the program statewide, and including appropriations
31 requests."

32 (b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human
33 Resources the sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year
34 and the sum of forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to
35 implement Part 10B of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, established by
36 subsection (a) of this section, if enacted. Funds appropriated to implement G.S. 143B-
37 168.12(b), if enacted, for the 1993-94 fiscal year are for six months of services. Funds
38 appropriated to implement G.S. 143B-168.12(b), if enacted, for the 1994-95 fiscal year
39 are for 12 months of services. From the funds appropriated by this subsection, the
40 Department shall provide funds for services prescribed in Part 10B of Article 3 of
41 Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, if enacted, for necessary State, regional, and local
42 administration of this Part, and for the activities of the North Carolina Partnership for
43 Children, Inc., consistent with the provisions of this Part. All of the funds appropriated

1 by this subsection shall be allocated according to a schedule prescribed in the Current
 2 Operations Appropriations Act of 1993.

3 Sec. 2. (a) Effective January 1, 1994, G.S. 110-91(7) reads as rewritten:

4 "(7) Staff-Child Ratio. – In determining the staff-child ratio, all children
 5 younger than 13 years shall be counted. The Commission shall adopt
 6 rules regarding staff-child ratios, group sizes and multi-age groupings
 7 for each category of facility other than for infants and toddlers,
 8 provided that ~~such these rules and regulations~~ shall be no less stringent
 9 than those currently required for staff-child ratios as enacted in Section
 10 156(e) of Chapter 757 of the 1985 Session Laws. The staff-child ratios
 11 and group sizes for infants and toddlers shall be no less stringent than
 12 as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Group Size</u>
<u>0 to 12 months</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>12 to 24 months</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>2 to 3 years</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20.</u> "

17 (b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human
 18 Resources the sum of two million seven hundred ninety-three thousand dollars
 19 (\$2,793,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of two million eight hundred
 20 twenty-three thousand dollars (\$2,823,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year, to increase the
 21 reimbursement rate for day care providers to implement this section.

22 Sec. 3. (a) Effective July 1, 1993, eligibility limits for families receiving State
 23 and federal child day care subsidies shall be increased one increment on the current day
 24 care fee scale.

25 (b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human
 26 Resources the sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) for the
 27 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars
 28 (\$1,800,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to implement this section.

29 Sec. 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
 30 Human Resources the sum of three hundred twenty-eight thousand three hundred
 31 dollars (\$328,300) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of seven hundred four
 32 thousand dollars (\$704,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to provide additional staff
 33 positions to monitor conditions in homes and facilities offering child day care. These
 34 staff shall be responsible for such activities as monitoring compliance with licensing
 35 and registration requirements for child day care providers, investigating reports of
 36 noncompliance, and providing technical assistance to operators.

37 Sec. 5. (a) Rules for the monthly schedule of payments for the purchase of
 38 child day care for low-income children shall be established by the Social Services
 39 Commission pursuant to G.S. 143B-153(8)a. Except as provided in Section 1(a) of this
 40 act, requirements for the adoption of these rules shall include provision of incentives to
 41 provide quality child day care by providing payment differentials among child day care
 42 providers as follows:

1 (1) Child day care facilities that are rated "AA" shall be reimbursed at a
2 rate ten percent (10%) above the approved county child day care rate
3 payment; and

4 (2) Unregistered homes and facilities shall be reimbursed at a rate ten
5 percent (10%) below the approved county child day care rate payment.

6 (b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human
7 Resources the sum of one million three hundred fifty-three thousand dollars
8 (\$1,353,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one million three hundred fifty-
9 three thousand dollars (\$1,353,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to implement this
10 section.

11 Sec. 6. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
12 Human Resources the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal
13 year and the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to
14 expand the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps program (T.E.A.C.H.). These
15 funds shall be used to enable child day care teachers to seek continued education
16 through course work leading to a Child Care Credential, Child Care Certificate, or an
17 associate degree in Early Childhood Education.

18 Sec. 7. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
19 Human Resources the sum of one hundred twenty-six thousand dollars (\$126,000) for
20 the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred eighty-six thousand two hundred
21 dollars (\$186,200) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to provide additional matching funds for
22 the federal At-Risk Child Care Grant.

23 Sec. 8. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.