

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 855

Short Title: Support Family Stabilization. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Fisher, Meyer, Cunningham, and Carney (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Judiciary III, if favorable, Finance.

April 15, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE FEE FOR FILING A DIVORCE ACTION FROM  
3 SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS TO ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS TO  
4 SUPPORT THE FAMILY STABILIZATION FUND AND ESTABLISH THE FAMILY  
5 STABILIZATION FUND.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-305(a2) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a2) In every action for absolute divorce filed in the district court, a cost of ~~seventy-five~~  
9 ~~dollars (\$75.00)~~ one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed against the person  
10 filing the divorce action. Costs collected by the clerk pursuant to this subsection shall be  
11 remitted to the State Treasurer, who shall deposit fifty dollars (\$50.00) to the Family  
12 Stabilization Fund established under G.S. 143B-394.25 and seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) to the  
13 Domestic Violence Center Fund established under G.S. 50B-9. Costs assessed under this  
14 subsection shall be in addition to any other costs assessed under this section."

15 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 143B-393 reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 143B-393. North Carolina Council for Women – creation; powers and duties.**

17 There is hereby created the North Carolina Council for Women of the Department of  
18 Administration. The North Carolina Council for Women shall have the following functions and  
19 duties:

- 20 (1) To advise the Governor, the principal State departments, and the State  
21 legislature concerning the education and employment of women in the State  
22 of North Carolina.  
23 (2) To advise the Secretary of Administration upon any matter the Secretary  
24 may refer to the Council.  
25 (3) Repealed by Session Laws 2013-360, s. 30.2(b), effective July 1, 2013.  
26 (4) To administer the Family Stabilization Fund established under  
27 G.S. 143B-394.25."

28 **SECTION 3.** Article 9 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by  
29 adding a new Part to read:

30 "Part 10E. North Carolina Family Stabilization Fund.

31 "**§ 143B-394.25. North Carolina Family Stabilization Fund.**

32 (a) There is established in the Department of Administration the North Carolina Family  
33 Stabilization Fund. The Fund shall be administered by the North Carolina Council for Women  
34 in accordance with Article 1 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes and shall be used to make  
35 grants to organizations that will assist individuals in this State who are returning to or starting



1 in the workforce and in need of services, including, but not limited to, (i) short-term child care,  
2 (ii) resource referral, (iii) resume development, and (iv) case management to achieve goals,  
3 such as job training, acquiring a GED, continued education, or long-term employment. Grants  
4 shall be awarded according to criteria established by the Council. No more than ten percent  
5 (10%) of these funds shall be used for administrative costs by the Council. In order to be  
6 eligible to receive grant funds under this section, the organization shall fulfill all of the criteria  
7 established by the Council. The Council shall report annually to the Joint Legislative  
8 Commission on Governmental Operations on the revenues credited to the Fund, the  
9 organizations receiving grants from the Fund, the success of those organizations, and the costs  
10 associated with administering the Fund.

11 (b) The Department, upon recommendations by the Council, shall adopt rules to  
12 implement the North Carolina Family Stabilization Fund."

13 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.