A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) CRISIS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Transfer of Funds from Reserves to Relief Fund. – The State Controller shall transfer the sum of four hundred five million dollars ($405,000,000) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year from the Coronavirus Relief Reserve established in Section 2.1 of S.L. 2020-4 to the Coronavirus Relief Fund established in Section 2.2 of S.L. 2020-4.

SECTION 2. Appropriation of Funds from Relief Fund. – There is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management the sum of four hundred five million dollars ($405,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to be allocated and used as provided in Section 3 of this act. The funds appropriated in this section shall not revert at the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year but shall remain available to expend until December 30, 2020.

SECTION 3. Allocations of Funds. – The Office of State Budget and Management shall allocate the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act as follows:

1. $150,000,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to improve Internet connectivity for students by installing extended reach mobile Wi-Fi gateway router devices in school buses and by providing community and home mobile Internet access points. These funds shall be used only for the purchase of devices and not for subscription services.

2. $65,000,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to be allocated to local school administrative units, charter schools, regional schools, and other elementary or secondary schools operated by the State Board of Education to purchase computers or other electronic devices for use by students and school personnel in response to COVID-19.

3. $25,000,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to hold in reserve and to award as grants, in the discretion of the Department, to public school units that apply for funds to support extraordinary costs associated with providing services for exceptional children in response to the impacts of COVID-19.

4. $25,000,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to be allocated in a manner consistent with the formula for the Instructional Support Allotment. These funds shall be used for contracted services provided no later than December 30, 2020, for school health support personnel to provide additional physical and mental health support services for students in response to COVID-19, including remote and in-person physical and mental health
support services. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "school health support personnel" shall refer to school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, and school social workers.

(5) $15,000,000 to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to be allocated to constituent institutions to cover necessary eligible expenses for resources and supports for students impacted by COVID-19.

(6) $60,000,000 to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to be allocated to constituent institutions to provide institutional support for necessary eligible expenses related to COVID-19 impacts.

(7) $10,000,000 to the Community Colleges System Office to be allocated to community college campuses to cover necessary eligible expenses for resources and supports for students impacted by COVID-19.

(8) $20,000,000 to the Community Colleges System Office to be used by the System Office and to be allocated to community college campuses to provide institutional support for necessary eligible expenses related to COVID-19 impacts.

(9) $35,000,000 to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to be allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) for the Authority to provide funds to eligible private postsecondary institutions, as defined in G.S. 116-280(3), in amounts as follows: (i) $15,000,000 to provide funds to cover necessary eligible expenses for resources and supports for students impacted by COVID-19 and (ii) $20,000,000 to provide institutional support for private postsecondary institutions for necessary eligible expenses related to COVID-19 impacts. The Authority shall provide these funds to each eligible private postsecondary institution by apportioning an amount equal to the following:

a. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the institution's relative share of full-time equivalent students who were enrolled as of March 13, 2020, who received scholarships pursuant to Article 34 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes for the spring semester of the 2019-2020 academic year.

b. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the institution's relative share of full-time equivalent students who were enrolled as of March 13, 2020, who had not received scholarships pursuant to Article 34 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes for the spring semester of the 2019-2020 academic year.

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