

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 1227
May 26, 2020
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10829-LUa-185

Short Title: Ensure Awareness of Assistance Programs/COVID. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Autry.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND UNDER
3 THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT TO
4 ENSURE THAT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ARE CONNECTED TO ALL
5 FEDERALLY FUNDED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR WHICH THEY ARE
6 ELIGIBLE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** The State Controller shall transfer the sum of two million dollars
9 (\$2,000,000) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year from the Coronavirus Relief Reserve established
10 under Section 2.1 of S.L. 2020-4 to the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the Coronavirus Aid,
11 Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, P.L. 116-136, established in Section 2.2
12 of that act.

13 **SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the
14 Department of Health and Human Services (Department) the sum of two million dollars
15 (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to ensure that children and
16 families are connected to all federally funded public assistance programs for which they are
17 eligible by providing funding for the following:

- 18 (1) Data matching to identify, contact, and enroll children and families who are
19 currently enrolled in one program, including unemployment insurance
20 benefits, who are eligible or newly eligible for multiple programs.
- 21 (2) Investment in technology and temporary staffing to support the work required
22 under subdivision (1) of this section and the work of enrolling families who
23 are in urgent need of assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic who have
24 never interacted with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division
25 of Social Services.
- 26 (3) Capacity for a public-focused awareness campaign to encourage enrollment
27 in federally funded benefits programs for families who are newly eligible due
28 to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as guidance on how to enroll in those
29 programs.

30 **SECTION 1.(c)** The funds provided under this section shall be used for the purposes
31 described in this section and the requirements and limitations set forth in the CARES Act.

32 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide a report
33 to the House Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the Senate
34 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division by
35 March 1, 2021, detailing the use of funds allocated under this act.



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1 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2020, and applies retroactively to
2 March 1, 2020, and expires December 30, 2020.