GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2001

S

SENATE BILL 61

2

Appropriations/Base Budget Committee Substitute Adopted 8/23/01

Short Title:	Continuing Budget Authorization.	(Public)
Sponsors:		
Referred to:		

February 6, 2001

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO CONTINUE THE BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR STATE
3	GOVERNMENT; TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN
4	SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS, FOR NATURAL AND ECONOMIC
5	RESOURCES BLOCK GRANTS, FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
6	UNIVERSITY, AND PRIVATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS, FOR THE STATE
7	HEALTH PLAN, FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO THE HIGHEST
8	PRIORITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, FOR KINDERGARTEN CLASS SIZE
9	REDUCTION, AND FOR THE "MORE AT FOUR" PILOT PROGRAM; TO
0	CONTAIN MEDICAID COSTS AND REDUCE THE RATE OF GROWTH IN
1	EXPENDITURES FOR PAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL SERVICES; TO PROVIDE
12	FOR MEDICAID COST-CONTAINMENT ACTIVITIES; TO DIRECT THE
13	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT A
14	MEDICAID PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN; TO ADOPT A MEDICAL
15	COVERAGE POLICY UNDER THE STATE MEDICAID PROGRAM AND TO
16	EXEMPT THE POLICY FROM RULE MAKING UNDER THE STATE
17	ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT; TO APPROVE THE TANF STATE
18	PLAN; TO EXTEND PAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENTS AND
9	SERVICES TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION PATIENTS; TO INCREASE
20	TUITION RATES FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES;
21	AND TO DELAY REIMBURSEMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR
22	THE INTANGIBLES TAX.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. CONTINUED BUDGET AUTHORITY.

SECTION 1. Section 8 of S.L. 2001-250, as amended by S.L. 2001-287 and Section 1 of S.L. 2001-322, reads as rewritten:

"**SECTION 8.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective July 1, 2001. This act expires August 29, 2001. September 28, 2001."

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1 2	PART I	I. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK SECTION 2. Section 2 of S.L. 2001-250 is repeal	ed.
3	for the fi	SECTION 2.1.(a) Appropriations from federal be an always and in a large 20, 2002, according to the falls	_
4 5	for the 11	scal year ending June 30, 2002, according to the follo	owing schedule:
6	COMMI	JNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	
7	COMMI	STATT BEKVICES BEGCK GRANT	
8	01.	Community Action Agencies	\$ 14,160,375
10	02.	Limited Purpose Agencies	979,017
11	٥ 2.	Zimited I dipose rigeneres	<i>575</i> ,617
12	03.	Department of Health and Human Services	
13		to administer and monitor	
14		the activities of the	
15		Community Services Block Grant	500,000
16			
17	TOTAL	COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	\$ 15,639,392
18			
19	SOCIAL	SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	
20			
21	01.	County departments of social services	\$ 27,395,663
22		(Transfer from TANF - \$4,500,000)	
23			
24	02.	Allocation for in-home services provided	
25		by county departments of	
26		social services	2,101,113
27			
28	03.	Division of Mental Health, Developmental	
29		Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services	3,234,601
30			
31	04.	Division of Services for the Blind	3,105,711
32			
33	05.	Division of Facility Services	426,836
34	0.6	B	
35	06.	Division of Aging - Home and Community	1 0 4 0 2 2 4
36		Care Block Grant	1,840,234
37	07		2 000 000
38	07.	Child Care Subsidies	3,000,000
39	00	Division of Woodings I Debel 1114-41-11	
40	08.	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation -	71 404
41		United Cerebral Palsy	71,484
42 43	09.	State administration	1,693,368
43	09.	State autilitistration	1,093,300

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1			
2 3	10.	Child Medical Evaluation Program	238,321
4	11.	Adult day care services	2,155,301
5 6 7 8	12.	Comprehensive Treatment Services Program	750,000
9 10 11	13.	Transfer to Preventive Health Services Block Grant for emergency medical services	213,128
12 13 14	14.	Transfer to Preventive Health Services Block Grant for HIV/AIDS Prevention Activities	395,789
15 16 17 18	15.	Department of Administration for the N.C. State Commission of Indian Affairs In-Home Services Program for the Elderly	203,198
19 20 21	16.	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation - Easter Seals Society	116,779
22 23 24	17.	UNC-CH CARES Program for training and consultation services	247,920
25 26 27 28	18.	Office of the Secretary - Office of Economic Opportunity for N.C. Senior Citizens' Federation for outreach services to low-income elderly persons	41,302
29 30 31 32	19.	Transfer from TANF Block Grant for Division of Social Services - Child Caring Agencies	1,500,000
33 34 35 36 37	20.	Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services - Developmentally Disabled Waiting List for services	5,000,000
38 39 40 41	21.	Transfer to Maternal and Child Health Block Grant for Newborn Screenings	90,611
42 43	22.	Transfer to Preventive Health Services Block Grant for HIV/AIDS education, counseling, and	

	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2001				
1		testing	66,939		
2 3 4	TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT \$ 53,888,298				
5	LOW-IN	NCOME ENERGY BLOCK GRANT			
7 8	01.	Energy Assistance Programs	\$ 8,092,113		
9 10	02.	Crisis Intervention	5,795,825		
11 12	03.	Administration	1,984,934		
13 14	04.	Weatherization Program	2,684,116		
15 16 17	05.	Department of Administration - N.C. State Commission of Indian Affairs	39,765		
18 19	06.	Heating Air Repair and Replacement Program	1,252,588		
20 21	TOTAL	LOW-INCOME ENERGY BLOCK GRANT	\$ 19,849,342		
22 23	MENTA	AL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT			
24 25 26 27 28	01.	Provision of community-based services in accordance with the Mental Health Study Commission's Adult Severe and Persistently Mentally III Plan	\$ 5,192,826		
29 30 31 32	02.	Provision of community-based services to children	2,378,540		
33 34 35	03.	Establish Child Residential Treatment Services Program	1,500,000		
36 37	04.	Administration	783,911		
38 39	TOTAL	MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	\$ 9,855,277		
40 41 42		ANCE ABUSE PREVENTION REATMENT BLOCK GRANT			
42	01.	Provision of community-based			

	GENER	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2001				
1		alcohol and drug abuse services,				
2		tuberculosis services, and services				
3		provided by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse				
1		Treatment Centers	\$ 14,501,711			
5 5	02.	Continuation of services for				
7		pregnant women and women				
3		with dependent children	6,007,303			
	03.	Continuation of services to				
		IV drug abusers and others at risk				
		for HIV diseases	5,209,934			
	04.	Provision of services to children				
	04.	and adolescents	6,839,190			
		and adorescents	0,037,170			
	05.	Juvenile Services - Family Focus	774,414			
		,	, ,			
	06.	Child Residential Treatment				
		Services Program	700,000			
	07.	Administration	2,423,049			
	тотлі	CLIDGE ANCE ADJICE DREVENTION				
		SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION REATMENT BLOCK GRANT	\$ 36,455,601			
	ANDII	CEATMENT BLOCK GRANT	\$ 50,455,001			
	CHILD	CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND BLOCK GRANT				
	01.	Child care subsidies	\$148,343,839			
	02.	Quality and availability initiatives	17,259,661			
	03.	Administrative expenses	6,550,000			
	0.4	Transfer from TANE Dlack Creat for				
	04.	Transfer from TANF Block Grant for child care subsidies	76,675,000			
		cilia care subsidies	70,073,000			
	TOTAL	CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND				
	BLOCK GRANT \$248,828,500					
	LLOCK		φ 2 10,0 2 0,500			
	TEMPO	RARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES				
	(TANF) BLOCK GRANT					

	GENER	AL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA	SESSION 2001
1 2	01.	Work First Cash Assistance	\$114,181,958
3 4	02.	Work First County Block Grants	92,018,855
5 6 7 8	03.	Transfer to the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant for child care subsidies	76,675,000
9 10 11 12 13 14	04.	Allocation to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services for Work First substance abuse screening, diagnostic, and support treatment services and drug testing	3,500,000
15 16	05.	Cash Assistance Reserve	11,876,624
17 18 19	06.	Allocation to the Division of Social Services for staff development	500,000
20 21	07.	Reduction of out-of-wedlock births	1,440,000
22 23	08.	Substance Abuse Services for Juveniles	1,182,280
24 25	09.	Special Children Adoption Fund	2,811,687
26 27 28	10.	Business Process Reengineering Project Reserve	3,000,000
29 30 31 32	11.	Work First Job Retention – NC Rural Center (\$270,000) Work Central Career Advancement Center (\$180,000)	450,000
33 34 35 36	12.	Allocation to the Division of Public Health for teen pregnancy prevention	2,015,335
37 38 39	13.	Transfer to Social Services Block Grant for Child Caring Agencies	1,500,000
40 41	14.	Child Care Subsidies for TANF Recipients	26,621,241
42 43	15.	Work First Housing Initiative – Existing programs (\$1,800,000)	

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1 2		– New programs (\$900,000)	2,700,000		
3	16.	Allocation to the Division of Social			
4		Services for Domestic Violence			
5		Prevention and Awareness	900,000		
6					
7	17.	County Child Protective Services,			
8		Foster Care, and Adoption Workers	2,727,550		
9	10		1 000 000		
10	18.	Intensive Family Preservation Program	1,800,000		
11 12	19.	Work First/Boys and Girls Clubs	900,000		
13	19.	Work Pilst/Boys and Onlis Clubs	900,000		
14	20.	Transfer to Social Services Block Grant for			
15	20.	County Departments of Social Services for			
16		Children's Services	4,500,000		
17			, ,		
18	21.	Support Our Students – Department of			
19		Juvenile Justice and Delinquency			
20		Prevention	2,475,607		
21					
22	22.	Residential Substance Abuse Services	4.500.000		
23		for Women With Children	4,500,000		
24 25	23.	Domestic Violence Services			
25 26	23.	for Work First Families	1,800,000		
27		for work this trainings	1,000,000		
28	24.	After-School Services for			
29	2	At-Risk Children	2,700,000		
30			, ,		
31	25.	Division of Social Services -			
32		Administration	500,000		
33					
34	26.	Child Welfare workers and services for			
35		local departments of social services	7,654,841		
36	27		2 000 000		
37	27.	Child Welfare Training	2,000,000		
38	20	Individual Dayslanment Assaunts	190,000		
39 40	28.	Individual Development Accounts	180,000		
40	ΤΩΤΔΙ	TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES			
42		BLOCK GRANT	\$373,110,978		
43	(=====)		, ,		

	GENER	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2001			
1					
2 3	01.	Healthy Mothers/Healthy Children			
4		Block Grants to Local Health			
5		Departments	9,838,074		
6		•			
7	02.	High-Risk Maternity Clinic Services,			
8		Perinatal Education and Training,			
9		Childhood Injury Prevention,			
10		Public Information and Education, and			
11		Technical Assistance to Local Health			
12		Departments	2,012,102		
13		•			
14	03.	Services to Children With Special Health			
15		Care Needs	5,078,647		
16					
17	04.	Transfer from Social Services Block Grant			
18		for Newborn Screenings	90,611		
19		Ç			
20	TOTAL	MATERNAL AND CHILD			
21	HEALT	H BLOCK GRANT	\$ 17,019,434		
22					
23	PREVE	NTIVE HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT			
24					
25	01.	Statewide Health Promotion Programs	\$3,061,182		
26					
27	02.	Dental Services/Fluoridation	100,800		
28					
29	03.	Rape Crisis/Victims' Services			
30		Program - Council for Women	190,134		
31					
32	04.	Rape Prevention and Education			
33		Program - Division of Public			
34		Health and Council for Women	1,139,869		
35					
36	05.	Transfer from Social Services			
37		Block Grant -			
38		HIV/AIDS Prevention Activities	395,789		
39					
40	06.	Transfer from Social Services			
41		Block Grant -			
42		Emergency Medical Services	213,128		
43					

1	07.	Transfer from Social Services	
2		Block Grant –	
3		HIV/AIDS education, counseling, and	
4		testing	66,939
5			
6	08.	Office of Minority Health	159,459
7			
8	09.	Administrative Costs	108,546
9			
10	TOTAL	PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	\$5,435,846

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SECTION 2.1.(b) Decreases in Federal Fund Availability. – If the United States Congress reduces federal fund availability in the Social Services Block Grant below the amounts appropriated in this section, then the Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate these decreases giving priority first to those direct services mandated by State or federal law, then to those programs providing direct services that have demonstrated effectiveness in meeting the federally State-mandated services goals established for the Social Services Block Grant. Department shall not include transfers from TANF for specified purposes in any calculations of reductions to the Social Services Block Grant.

If the United States Congress reduces the amount of TANF funds below the amounts appropriated in this section after the effective date of this act, then the Department shall allocate the decrease in funds after considering any underutilization of the budget and the effectiveness of the current level of services. Any TANF Block Grant fund changes shall be reported to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

Decreases in federal fund availability shall be allocated for the Maternal and Child Health and Preventive Health Services federal block grants by the Department of Health and Human Services after considering the effectiveness of the current level of services.

SECTION 2.1.(c) Increases in Federal Fund Availability. – Any block grant funds appropriated by the United States Congress in addition to the funds specified in this act shall be expended by the Department of Health and Human Services, with the approval of the Office of State Budget and Management, provided the resultant increases are in accordance with federal block grant requirements and are within the scope of the block grant plan approved by the General Assembly.

SECTION 2.1.(d) Changes to the budgeted allocations to the block grants appropriated in this act and new allocations from the block grants not specified in this act shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations for review prior to the change and shall be reported immediately to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of

Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

SECTION 2.1.(e) The Department of Health and Human Services may allow no-cost contract extensions for up to six months for nongovernmental grant recipients under the TANF Block Grant.

SECTION 2.1.(f) Limitations on Preventive Health Services Block Grant Funds. – Twenty-five percent (25%) of funds allocated for Rape Prevention and Rape Education shall be allocated as grants to nonprofit organizations to provide rape prevention and education programs targeted for middle, junior high, and high school students.

If federal funds are received under the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant for abstinence education, pursuant to section 912 of Public Law 104-193 (42 U.S.C. § 710), for the 2001-2002 fiscal year, then those funds shall be transferred to the State Board of Education to be administered by the Department of Public Instruction. The Department of Public Instruction shall use the funds to establish an Abstinence Until Marriage Education Program and shall delegate to one or more persons the responsibility of implementing the program and G.S. 115C-81(e1)(4). The Department of Public Instruction shall carefully and strictly follow federal guidelines in implementing and administering the abstinence education grant funds.

SECTION 2.1.(g) The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, shall do the following:

- (1) Continue the current evaluation of the Work First Program to assess former recipients' earnings, barriers to advancement to economic self-sufficiency, utilization of community support services, and other longitudinal employment data. Assessment periods shall include six and 18 months following closure of the case.
- (2) Continue the current evaluation of the Work First Program to profile the State's child-only caseload to include indicators of economic and social well-being, academic and behavioral performance, demographic data, description of living arrangements including length of placement out of the home, social and other human services provided to families, and other information needed to assess the needs of the child-only Work First Family Assistance clients and families.
- (3) Continue the current evaluation to profile clients and families exempted from federal and State work participation requirements. The evaluation shall include an assessment of the client and family needs including why clients and families have been exempted.

The Department of Health and Human Services shall make a report on its progress in complying with this subsection to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than September 30, 2001, and shall make a final report no later than September 30, 2002.

SECTION 2.1.(h) The sum of two million eight hundred eleven thousand six hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$2,811,687) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Special Children Adoption Fund, for the 2001-2002 fiscal year shall be used to implement this subsection. The Division of Social Services, in consultation with the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services and representatives of licensed private adoption agencies, shall develop guidelines for the awarding of funds to licensed public and private adoption agencies upon the adoption of children described in G.S. 108A-50 and in foster care. Payments received from the Special Children Adoption Fund by participating agencies shall be used exclusively to enhance the adoption services program. No local match shall be required as a condition for receipt of these funds.

SECTION 2.1.(i) The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) appropriated in this act in the TANF Block Grant and transferred to the Social Services Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, for child caring agencies for the 2001-2002 fiscal year shall be allocated to the State Private Child Caring Agencies Fund. These funds shall be combined with all other funds allocated to the State Private Child Caring Agencies Fund for the reimbursement of the State's portion of the cost of care for the placement of certain children by the county departments of social services who are not eligible for federal IV-E funds. These funds shall not be used to match other federal funds.

SECTION 2.1.(j) The sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) appropriated in this section to the Department of Health and Human Services in the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant shall be used to develop and implement a Medical Child Care Pilot open to children throughout the State.

SECTION 2.1.(k) The sum of nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) appropriated in this section to the Department of Health and Human Services in the TANF Block Grant for Boys and Girls Clubs shall be used to make grants for approved programs. The Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with federal regulations for the use of TANF Block Grant funds, shall administer a grant program to award funds to the Boys and Girls Clubs across the State in order to implement programs that improve the motivation, performance, and self-esteem of youths and to implement other initiatives that would be expected to reduce school dropout and teen pregnancy rates. The Department shall encourage and facilitate collaboration between the Boys and Girls Clubs and Support Our Students, Communities in Schools, and similar programs to submit joint applications for the funds if appropriate.

SECTION 2.1.(I) Payment for subsidized child care services provided with federal TANF funds shall comply with all regulations and policies issued by the Division of Child Development for the subsidized child care program.

SECTION 2.1.(m) The sum of two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, for the Work First Housing Initiative shall be used to provide direct housing support to Work First clients. Direct

housing support includes using funds for rental assistance, loans, moving expenses, and other financial assistance. No more than ten percent (10%) of these funds may be used for administration. These funds may be used for counseling or similar services only if it is demonstrated that those services are not otherwise available in the community.

SECTION 2.1.(n) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, for the 2001-2002 fiscal year shall be used to support administration of TANF-funded programs.

SECTION 2.1.(0) The sum of four million five hundred thousand dollars (\$4,500,000) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, for the 2001-2002 fiscal year shall be used to provide regional residential substance abuse treatment and services for women with children. The Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Social Services, and the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, in consultation with local departments of social services, area mental health programs, and other State and local agencies or organizations, shall coordinate this effort in order to facilitate the expansion of regionally based substance abuse services for women with children. These services shall be culturally appropriate and designed for the unique needs of TANF women with children.

In order to expedite the expansion of these services, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services may enter into contracts with service providers.

The Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Social Services, and the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, shall report on their progress in complying with this subsection no later than October 1, 2001, and March 1, 2002, to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division. These reports shall include all of the following:

- (1) The number and location of additional beds created.
- (2) The types of facilities established.
- (3) The delineation of roles and responsibilities at the State and local levels.
- (4) Demographics of the women served, the number of women served, and the cost per client.
- (5) Demographics of the children served, the number of children served, and the services provided.
- (6) Job placement services provided to women.
- (7) A plan for follow-up and evaluation of services provided with an emphasis on outcomes.
 - (8) Barriers identified to the successful implementation of the expansion.

- (9) Identification of other resources needed to appropriately and efficiently provide services to Work First recipients.
 - (10) Other information as requested.

SECTION 2.1.(p) The sum of two million four hundred seventy-five thousand six hundred seven dollars (\$2,475,607) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services and transferred to the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the 2001-2002 fiscal year shall be used to support the existing Support Our Students Program and to expand the Program statewide, focusing on low-income communities in unserved areas. These funds shall not be used for administration of the program.

SECTION 2.1.(q) The sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) appropriated under this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, for the 2001-2002 fiscal year shall be used to provide domestic violence services to Work First recipients. These funds shall be used to provide domestic violence counseling, support, and other direct services to clients. These funds shall not be used to establish new domestic violence shelters, for State-level administration, or to facilitate lobbying efforts.

Each county department of social services and the local domestic violence shelter program serving the county shall jointly develop a plan for utilizing these funds. The plan shall include the services to be provided and the manner in which the services shall be delivered. The county plan shall be signed by the county social services director or the director's designee and the domestic violence program director or the director's designee and submitted to the Division of Social Services by October 1, 2001. The Division of Social Services, in consultation with the Council for Women, shall review the county plans and shall provide consultation and technical assistance to the departments of social services and local domestic violence shelter programs, if needed.

The Division of Social Services shall allocate these funds to county departments of social services according to the following formula: (i) each county shall receive a base allocation of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and (ii) each county shall receive an allocation of the remaining funds based on the county's proportion of the statewide total of the Work First caseload as of July 1, 2001, and the county's proportion of the statewide total of the individuals receiving domestic violence services from programs funded by the Council for Women as of July 1, 2001. The Division of Social Services may reallocate unspent funds to counties that submit a written request for additional funds.

The Department of Health and Human Services shall report on the uses of these funds no later than March 1, 2002, to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

SECTION 2.1.(r) The sum of two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, shall be used to expand

after-school programs and services for at-risk children. The Department shall develop and implement a grant program to award grants to community-based programs that demonstrate the ability to reach children at risk of teen pregnancy and school dropout. The Department shall award grants to community-based organizations that demonstrate the ability to develop and implement linkages with local departments of social services, area mental health programs, schools, and other human services programs in order to provide support services and assistance to the child and family. These funds may be used to establish one position within the Division of Social Services to coordinate at-risk after-school programs and shall not be used for other State administration. The Department shall report no later than March 1, 2002, on its progress in complying with this section to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

SECTION 2.1.(s) The sum of seven million six hundred fifty-four thousand eight hundred forty-one dollars (\$7,654,841) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, for the 2001-2002 fiscal year for Child Welfare Improvements shall be allocated to the county departments of social services for hiring or contracting staff to investigate and provide services in Child Protective Services cases; to provide foster care and support services; to recruit, train, license, and support prospective foster and adoptive families; and to provide interstate and post-adoption services for eligible families.

SECTION 2.1.(t) The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) appropriated in this section in the Mental Health Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) appropriated in this section in the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, for the 2001-2002 fiscal year shall be used to continue a Comprehensive Treatment Services Program in accordance with Section 21.60 of this act.

SECTION 2.1.(u) The sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, for fiscal year 2001-2002 shall be used to support various child welfare training projects as follows:

- (1) Provide a regional training center in southeastern North Carolina.
- (2) Support the Masters Degree in Social Work/Baccalaureate Degree in Social Work Collaborative.
- (3) Provide training for residential child care facilities.
- (4) Provide for various other child welfare training initiatives.

SECTION 2.1.(v) The sum of nine million three hundred forty-seven thousand six hundred thirty-one dollars (\$9,347,631) appropriated in this section in the

TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services for a Cash Assistance Reserve may only be used for cash assistance payment if the funds appropriated in this act for cash assistance payments are not sufficient to pay Work First cash assistance in the 2001-2002 fiscal year. Prior to the use of these funds, the Office of State Budget and Management shall review all proposals for expenditure of these funds in order to ensure compliance with this subsection.

The sum of two million five hundred twenty-eight thousand nine hundred ninety-three dollars (\$2,528,993) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services for a Cash Assistance Reserve shall be held in the Cash Assistance Reserve until the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of State Budget and Management can certify that these funds are not needed to ensure the continuation of the Work First Family Assistance payments to recipients during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. These funds may be used only for the payment of Work First Family Assistance and the allocations listed in this subsection. If the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of State Budget and Management certify that these funds are not needed to ensure the continuation of Work First Family Assistance payments, the Department may make the following transfers from the Cash Assistance Reserve:

19	(1)	Reduction of out-of-wedlock births	\$160,000
20	(2)	Work First Job Retention –	
21		Rural Center (\$30,000)	
22		Work Central Career Center (\$20,000)	\$50,000
23	(3)	Teen Pregnancy Prevention	\$223,926
24	(4)	Work First Housing Initiative	\$300,000
25	(5)	Domestic Violence Prevention and	
26		Awareness	\$100,000
27	(6)	Intensive Family Preservation Program	\$200,000
28	(7)	Work First Boys and Girls Clubs	\$100,000
29	(8)	Support our Students	\$275,674
30	(9)	Residential Substance Abuse Services	
31		for Women with Children	\$500,000
32	(10)	Domestic Violence Services for	
33		Work First Families	\$200,000
34	(11)	After School Services for At-Risk Children	\$300,000
35	(12)	Individual Development Accounts	\$20,000

SECTION 2.1.(w) The sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services for a Business Process Reengineering Project Reserve may only be used for the project if funds appropriated in this act for Business Process Reengineering are not sufficient to continue the project through the 2001-2002 fiscal year. Prior to the use of these funds, the Office of State Budget and Management shall review all proposals for expenditure of these funds in order to ensure compliance with this subsection.

SECTION 2.1.(x) If funds appropriated through the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant for any program cannot be obligated or spent in that program within the obligation or liquidation periods allowed by the federal grants, the Department may move funds to child care subsidies unless otherwise prohibited by federal requirements of the grant, in order to use the federal funds fully.

SECTION 2.1.(y) The sum of nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) appropriated under this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, for the 2001-2002 fiscal year for Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness shall be used for grants to support initiatives by local domestic violence programs to prevent domestic violence. Prevention activities shall include efforts to reach under-served populations and shall be culturally sensitive and multilingual. The Department shall award grants to community-based organizations that demonstrate the ability to collaborate and coordinate services with other local human services agencies and organizations in order to serve children and families where domestic violence has occurred or is occurring. The Department shall report on the use of these funds no later than May 1, 2002, to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

SECTION 2.1.(z) The sum of three hundred ninety-five thousand seven hundred eighty-nine dollars (\$395,789) appropriated in this section in the Social Services Block Grant and transferred to the Preventive Health Service Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services for the 2001-2002 fiscal year for HIV/AIDS Prevention Activities shall be used to create a position in the Office of the Secretary and to enhance activities for HIV/AIDS awareness and education. The position shall be responsible for all planning, programming, and budgeting for compliance with HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative, Section 21.18D of this act. These prevention activities shall be targeted to the general public and programs identified in HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative, Section 21.18D of this act, and shall not be used to augment the current grant programs that target high-risk populations through the community-based organizations.

SECTION 2.1.(aa) The sum of one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) appropriated in this section in the TANF Block Grant to the Department of Health and Human Services for the 2001-2002 fiscal year shall be used for Individual Development Accounts (IDA) for TANF-eligible individuals. The Social Services Commission shall adopt rules for the implementation of this subsection.

PART III. MEDICAID COST CONTAINMENT AND GROWTH REDUCTION.

SECTION 3.(a) The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, shall contain Medicaid Program costs by reducing the rate of growth of the Medicaid Program, except for the rate of growth in the number of persons eligible for Medicaid. The Department shall develop and implement a plan to reduce the rate of growth in total expenditures for payments for medical services for fiscal year

2002-2003 to eight percent (8%) or less of the total expenditures for the 2001-2002 fiscal year, excluding the rate of growth associated with eligibles.

SECTION 3.(b) In addition to findings and recommendations in the "North Carolina Medicaid Benefit Study", May 1, 2001, the Department of Health and Human Services may also consider the following actions to reduce the rate of growth in the Medicaid Program:

- (1) Changes in methods of reimbursement;
- (2) Changes in the method of determining or limiting inflation factors, or both:
- (3) Recalibration of existing methods of reimbursement; and
- (4) Contracting for services.

SECTION 3.(c) As part of any efforts to contain Medicaid program costs, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, shall establish reimbursement rates that will allow efficient Medicaid providers to comply with certification requirements, licensure rules, or other mandated quality or safety standards.

SECTION 3.(d) The Department shall report on its plans to reduce the rate of growth in the State Medicaid Program not later than December 1, 2001. The Department shall submit the report to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

SECTION 3.(e) The Department shall not change medical policy affecting the amount, sufficiency, duration, and scope of health care services and who may provide services until the Division of Medical Assistance has prepared a five-year fiscal analysis documenting the increased cost of the proposed change in medical policy and submitted it for departmental review. If the fiscal impact indicated by the fiscal analysis for any proposed medical policy change exceeds three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in total requirements for a given fiscal year, then the Department shall submit the proposed policy change with the fiscal analysis to the Office of State Budget and Management and the Fiscal Research Division.

PART IV. MEDICAID COST CONTAINMENT ACTIVITIES.

SECTION 4. The Department of Health and Human Services may use not more than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in each year of the 2001-2003 fiscal biennium in Medicaid funds budgeted for program services to support the cost of administrative activities when cost effectiveness and savings are demonstrated. The funds shall be used to support activities that will contain the cost of the Medicaid Program including contracting for services or hiring additional staff. Medicaid cost-containment activities may include prospective reimbursement methods, incentive-based reimbursement methods, service limits, prior authorization of services, periodic medical necessity reviews, revised medical necessity criteria, service provision in the least costly settings, and other cost-containment activities. Funds may be expended under this section only after the Office of State Budget and Management has

approved a proposal for the expenditure submitted by the Department. Proposals for expenditure of funds under this section shall include the cost of implementing the cost-containment activity and documentation of the amount of savings expected to be realized from the cost-containment activity. The Department shall provide a copy of proposals for expenditures under this section to the Fiscal Research Division.

PART V. MEDICAID PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

SECTION 5.(a) The Department of Health and Human Services shall consider the findings and recommendations in the "North Carolina Medicaid Benefit Study", May 1, 2001, and shall target the following in considering whether and to what extent to implement recommendations:

- (1) Reduction in the fragmentation in the medical benefit policy-making process.
- (2) Improvement in the use of data and medical literature in the decision-making process.
- (3) Improvement in the coordination of care and utilization review process.
- (4) Strengthening of program integrity controls.

SECTION 5.(b) The Department shall implement a pharmacy management plan considering the recommendations of the "North Carolina Medicaid Benefit Study" to achieve anticipated cost savings. The pharmacy management plan may include the following activities:

- (1) Establishing a prior authorization program to manage utilization of high-cost brand name drugs. In determining drugs to be included in the prior authorization program, the Department shall consider whether inclusion of these drugs is likely to:
 - a. Increase utilization of more expensive services;
 - b. Reduce quality of treatment;
 - c. Result in a lower level of compliance with appropriate drug therapy;
 - d. Have a differential impact upon racial and ethnic minorities and the elderly.

The Department shall conduct a review at least annually of the drugs included in the prior authorization program to determine whether any of the factors listed in this subdivision or other factors with similar results have occurred.

- (2) Limiting prescription drugs to a 34-day supply for some or all drugs.
- (3) Developing physician prescribing practice profiles and other educational tools to enable physicians to better manage their prescriptions.
- (4) Establishing therapeutic limits based on appropriate dosage or usage standards.
- (5) Encouraging use of generic drugs.

- 1 (6) Using maximum allowable pricing. 2 (7) Contracting with a pharmacy ben
 - (7) Contracting with a pharmacy benefits manager to implement more extensive drug utilization review.
 - (8) Studying the impact of eliminating the six prescription drug monthly limit combined with a more rigorous prior authorization program to ensure cost decisions are made based on evidenced-based clinical guidelines.
 - (9) Expanding disease management initiatives.
 - (10) Working with ACCESS physicians to develop and implement drug utilization management initiatives.
 - (11) If cost-effective, expanding Medicaid drug coverage to include selected over-the-counter medications.

SECTION 5.(c) The Department shall report on all of the activities conducted under this section to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division not later than January 1, 2002.

PART VI. ADOPTION OF MEDICAL COVERAGE POLICY UNDER STATE MEDICAID PROGRAM; MEDICAL COVERAGE POLICY EXEMPT FROM RULE MAKING UNDER THE APA.

SECTION 6.(a) In order to promote consistency among providers and to ensure that medical coverage criteria are uniformly applied to Medicaid recipients throughout the State, the Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt medical coverage policies for the State Medicaid program that are consistent with national standards or Department-defined standards. If the Department determines that application of a national standard would likely cause significant deterioration in the quality of or access to appropriate medical care, then the Department shall substitute for that national standard an evidence-based, best-practice standard that will not compromise quality of or access to appropriate medical care. The adoption of new or amended medical coverage policies under the State Medicaid program are exempt from rule-making requirements of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

SECTION 6.(b) The Department shall develop, amend, and adopt medical coverage policy in accordance with the following:

- (1) During the development of new medical coverage policy or amendment to existing medical coverage policy, consult with and seek the advice of the Physician Advisory Group of the North Carolina Medical Society and other organizations the Secretary deems appropriate.
- (2) At least 45 days prior to the adoption of new or amended medical coverage policy, the Department shall:
 - a. Publish the proposed new or amended medical coverage policy on the Department's website;

1			b. Notify all Medicaid providers of the proposed, new, or amended
2 3			policy; and c. Upon request, provide persons copies of the proposed medical
4			coverage policy.
5		(3)	During the 45-day period immediately following publication of the
6		(3)	proposed new or amended medical coverage policy, accept oral and
7			written comments on the proposed new or amended policy.
8		(4)	If, following the comment period, the proposed new or amended
9		(4)	medical coverage policy is modified, then the Department shall, at
10			least 15 days prior to its adoption:
11			 Notify all Medicaid providers of the proposed policy;
12			b. Upon request, provide persons notice of amendments to the
13			proposed policy; and
14 15			c. Accept additional oral or written comments during this 15-day period.
16		SFC'	TION 6.(c) G.S. 150B-1(d), as amended by S.L. 2001-299, reads as
17		BLC	rewritten:
18	"(d)	Even	options from Rule Making. – Article 2A of this Chapter does not apply to
19	the follow		iptions from Rule Making. — Afficie 271 of this Chapter does not apply to
20	the follow	(1)	The Commission.
21		(2)	Repealed by Session Laws 2000-189, s. 14, effective July 1, 2000.
22		(3)	The North Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Commission in
23		(3)	administering the provisions of G.S. 130B-13 and G.S. 130B-14.
24		(4)	The Department of Revenue, with respect to the notice and hearing
25			requirements contained in Part 2 of Article 2A.
26		(5)	The North Carolina Global TransPark Authority with respect to the
27			acquisition, construction, operation, or use, including fees or charges,
28			of any portion of a cargo airport complex.
29		(6)	The Department of Correction, with respect to matters relating solely
30			to persons in its custody or under its supervision, including prisoners,
31			probationers, and parolees.
32		(7)	The North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Comprehensive
33			Major Medical Plan in administering the provisions of Parts 2 and 3 of
34			Article 3 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes.
35		(8)	The North Carolina Federal Tax Reform Allocation Committee, with
36			respect to the adoption of the annual qualified allocation plan required
37			by 26 U.S.C. § 42(m), and any agency designated by the Committee to
38			the extent necessary to administer the annual qualified allocation plan.
39		<u>(9)</u>	The Department of Health and Human Services in adopting new or
40		<u></u>	amending existing medical coverage policies under the State Medicaid
41			Program."
42			

PART VII. TANF STATE PLAN.

SECTION 7.(a) The General Assembly approves the plan titled "North Carolina Temporary Assistance for Needy Families State Plan FY 2001-2003", prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services and presented to the General Assembly on May 15, 2001, as revised in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. The North Carolina Temporary Assistance for Needy Families State Plan covers the period October 1, 2001, through September 30, 2003. The Department shall submit the State Plan, as revised in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, to the United States Department of Health and Human Services as amended by this act or any other act of the 2001 General Assembly.

SECTION 7.(b) The Department of Health and Human Services shall revise the North Carolina Temporary Assistance for Needy Families State Plan FY 2001-2003, submitted to the General Assembly for approval on May 15, 2001. The revisions shall be made to the following Plan components:

- (1) Enhanced Employee Assistance Program to reflect changes in funding.
- (2) Services for Families to remove reference to start-up activities.
- (3) Work Responsibility to remove reference to start-up activities.
- (4) Cabarrus County Waiver to reflect changes in the law made by the 2001 General Assembly.
- (5) Goal #8 to provide that caseload reduction goals are subject to economic conditions in the county.

SECTION 7.(c) The counties approved as Electing Counties in North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families State Plan FY 2001-2003 as approved by this section are: Caldwell, Caswell, Davie, Henderson, Iredell, Lenoir, Lincoln, Macon, McDowell, Randolph, Sampson, Surry, and Wilkes.

SECTION 7.(d) Counties designated as electing counties pursuant to Section 12.27A of S.L. 1998-212 and who submitted the letter of intent to be redesignated as a standard county and the accompanying county plan for FY 2001-2003, pursuant to G.S. 108A-27(e), shall operate under the standard county budget requirements effective July 1, 2001. Counties that submitted the letter of intent to remain as an electing county or to be redesignated as an electing county and the accompanying county plan for FY 2001-2003, pursuant to G.S. 108A-27(e), shall operate under the electing county budget requirements effective July 1, 2001. For programmatic purposes, all counties referred to in this subsection shall remain under their current county designation through September 30, 2001.

PART VIII. NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES BLOCK GRANTS.

SECTION 8.(a) Appropriations from federal block grant funds are made for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, according to the following schedule:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

01. State Administration \$1,000,000

	GENERAL AS	SESSION 2001	
1	02.	Urgent Needs and Contingency	1,000,000
2			
3	03.	Scattered Site Housing	13,200,000
4			
5	04.	Economic Development	8,710,000
6			
7	05.	Community Revitalization	13,500,000
8			
9	06.	State Technical Assistance	450,000
10			
11	07.	Housing Development	2,000,000
12			
13	08.	Infrastructure	5,140,000
14			
15	TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
16	BLOCK GRANT - 2002 Program Year		\$45,000,000

SECTION 8.(b) Decreases in Federal Fund Availability. – If federal funds are reduced below the amounts specified above after the effective date of this act, then every program in each of these federal block grants shall be reduced by the same percentage as the reduction in federal funds.

SECTION 8.(c) Increases in Federal Fund Availability for Community Development Block Grant. – Any block grant funds appropriated by the Congress of the United States in addition to the funds specified in this section shall be expended as follows: Each program category under the Community Development Block Grant shall be increased by the same percentage as the increase in federal funds.

SECTION 8.(d) Limitations on Community Development Block Grant Funds. – Of the funds appropriated in this section for the Community Development Block Grant, the following shall be allocated in each category for each program year: up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) may be used for State administration; up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) may be used for Urgent Needs and Contingency; up to thirteen million two hundred thousand dollars (\$13,200,000) may be used for Scattered Site Housing; up to eight million seven hundred ten thousand dollars (\$8,710,000) may be used for Economic Development; not less than thirteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$13,500,000) shall be used for Community Revitalization; up to four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) may be used for State Technical Assistance; up to two million dollars (\$2,000,000) may be used for Housing Development; up to five million one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$5,140,000) may be used for Infrastructure. If federal block grant funds are reduced or increased by the Congress of the United States after the effective date of this act, then these reductions or increases shall be allocated in accordance with subsection (b) or (c) of this section, as applicable.

SECTION 8.(e) Increase Capacity for Nonprofit Organizations. – Assistance to nonprofit organizations to increase their capacity to carry out

CDBG-eligible activities in partnership with units of local government is an eligible activity under any program category in accordance with federal regulations. Capacity building grants may be made from funds available within program categories, program income, or unobligated funds.

SECTION 8.(f) Study. – The Department of Commerce shall study the development of a training program designed to provide a minimum level of knowledge and skills for Community Development Block Grant administrators. In conducting the study, the Department shall consult the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, the North Carolina Community Development Association, and the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Department may use unencumbered and unspent State Technical Assistance funds from previous program years to conduct the study. The Department shall report its findings to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division by February 1, 2002.

PART IX. ESTABLISHED PAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENTS AND SERVICES TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION PATIENTS EXTENDED.

SECTION 9. Section 2 of S.L. 2001-253, as amended by Section 3 of S.L. 2001-322, reads as rewritten:

"**SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding G.S. 97-26, payment for medical treatment and services rendered to workers' compensation patients by a hospital on or after July 1, 2001, and before September 1, 2001, September 15, 2001, shall be equal to the payment the hospital would have received for such treatment and services on June 30, 2001."

PART X. COMMUNITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, AND PRIVATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TUITION INCREASES.

SECTION 10.(a) Beginning with the Fall 2001 academic semester, the State Board of Community Colleges shall increase the tuition charged to students enrolled in curriculum programs by three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) per student credit hour up to 16 credit hours per semester.

SECTION 10.(b) There is appropriated from tuition receipts received by the Community Colleges System Office pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the Community Colleges System Office the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year to fully fund enrollment.

SECTION 10.(c) Beginning with the Fall 2001 academic semester, the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall increase tuition for all students by nine percent (9%) per year above the rates charged for the 2000-2001 academic year. In addition the differentials for graduate and professional schools adopted by the Board of Governors for the 2001-2002 academic year shall remain in effect. The campus-initiated tuition increases approved by the Board of Governors for the 2001-2002 academic year shall also remain in effect. The receipts in this subsection are

appropriated for the purpose of funding regular term and distance education enrollment, including the enrollment hold harmless as requested by the Board of Governors as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

SECTION 10.(d) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of nine million six hundred seventy-two thousand one hundred six dollars (\$9,672,106) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year for the purpose of fully funding regular term and distance education enrollment, including the enrollment hold harmless as requested by the Board of Governors.

SECTION 10.(e) Of the funds and receipts appropriated by this section, the Board of Governors may expend up to forty million five hundred thirty-six thousand nine hundred sixty-three dollars (\$40,536,963) for the purpose of funding enrollment.

SECTION 10.(f) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of three million two hundred twenty-six thousand two hundred ten dollars (\$3,226,210) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year to be allocated to the University Board of Governors Related Educational Programs to be used to provide funds for the Legislative Tuition Grant program and the State Contractual Scholarship program enrollment increases.

PART XI. STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN FUNDING.

SECTION 11.(a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Reserve for State Health Plan the sum of one hundred fourteen million dollars (\$114,000,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

SECTION 11.(b) There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Reserve for State Health Plan the sum of seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

PART XII. REIMBURSEMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR INTANGIBLES TAX DELAYED.

SECTION 12. Notwithstanding G.S. 105-275.2, the Secretary of Revenue shall not make any distributions to local governments pursuant to that statute for the 2001-2002 fiscal year before the date the Current Operations and Capital Improvements Appropriations Act of 2001 becomes law.

PART XIII. IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

SECTION 13.(a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to State Aid to Local School Administrative Units the sum of eight million sixty-two thousand six hundred three dollars (\$8,062,603) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. These funds shall be used to provide the State's lowest-performing elementary schools with the tools needed to dramatically improve student achievement.

These funds shall be used to reduce class size at the 37 elementary schools at which, for the 1999-2000 school year, over eighty percent (80%) of the students qualified for free or reduced-price lunches and no more than fifty-five percent (55%) of

the students performed at or above grade level. For the 2001-2002 school year, class size at each of these schools shall be reduced to ensure that no class in kindergarten through third grade has more than 15 students. No funds from the teacher assistant allotment category may be allotted to the local school administrative units for students assigned to these schools. Any teacher assistants displaced from jobs in these highest priority elementary schools shall be given preferential consideration for vacant teacher assistant positions at other schools in the local school administrative unit, provided their job performance has been satisfactory. Nothing in this section prevents the local school administrative unit from placing teacher assistants in these schools.

SECTION 13.(b) In order for the high priority schools identified in subsection (a) of this section to remain eligible for the additional resources provided in this section, the schools must meet the expected growth for each year and must achieve high growth for at least two out of three years, based on the State Board of Education's annual performance standards set for each school. No adjustment in the allotment of resources based on performance shall be made until the 2004-2005 school year.

SECTION 13.(c) All teaching positions allotted for students in high priority schools in those grades targeted for smaller class sizes shall be assigned to and teach in those grades and in those schools. In grades K-3 in high priority schools the maximum class size for the 2001-2002 school year shall be no more than two students above the allotment ratio in that grade. The maximum class size for subsequent school years shall be no more than one student above the allotment ratio in that grade. The Department of Public Instruction shall monitor class sizes at these schools at the end of the fourth month of school and report to the State Board of Education on the actual class sizes in these schools. If the local school administrative unit notifies the State Board of Education that they do not have sufficient resources to adhere to the maximum class size requirements, the State Board of Education may allocate additional teaching positions to the unit from the Reserve for Average Daily Membership Adjustments.

PART XIV. REDUCE KINDERGARTEN CLASS SIZE.

SECTION 14. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Aid to Local School Administrative Units the sum of twelve million forty-five thousand one hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$12,045,179) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year to reduce the class-size allotment in kindergarten to one teacher for every 19 students. The maximum class size limits for kindergarten established by the State Board of Education for the 2001-2002 school year shall be reduced by one. Local school administrative units shall use these additional teaching positions to reduce class sizes in kindergarten to within the required limits by the end of the fifth month of the school year.

PART XV. "MORE AT FOUR" PILOT PROGRAM.

SECTION 15.(a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services the sum of six million four hundred fifty-six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,456,500) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. These funds shall be used to develop and implement "More At Four", a voluntary prekindergarten

pilot program for at-risk four-year-olds. The Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction, shall develop "More At Four" for four-year-old children in North Carolina to ensure that all children have an opportunity to succeed in kindergarten.

SECTION 15.(b) The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction shall establish the "More At Four" Pre-K Task Force to oversee development and implementation of the pilot program. The membership shall include:

- (1) Parents of at-risk children.
- (2) Representatives with expertise in early childhood development.
- (3) Classroom teachers who are certified in early childhood education.
- (4) Representatives of the private not-for-profit and for-profit child care providers in North Carolina.
- (5) Employees of the Department of Health and Human Services who are knowledgeable in the areas of early childhood development, current State and federally funded efforts in child development, and providing child care.
- (6) Representatives of local Smart Start partnerships.
- (7) Representatives of local school administrative units.
- (8) Representatives of Head Start prekindergarten programs in North Carolina.
- (9) Employees of the Department of Public Instruction.

SECTION 15.(c) The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction, under the guidance of the Task Force, shall develop and implement the "More At Four" pilot prekindergarten program for at-risk four-year-olds who are at risk of failure in kindergarten. The pilot shall be distributed geographically to ensure adequate representation of the diverse areas of the State, including underserved areas. The goal of the program shall be to provide quality prekindergarten services in order to enhance kindergarten readiness for these children. The program shall be consistent with standards and assessments established jointly by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Task Force and may consider the "More At Four" Pre-K Task Force Recommendations. The program shall include:

- (1) A process and system for identifying children at risk of academic failure.
- (2) A process and system for identifying children who have never been served in a formal early education program such as child care, public or private preschool, Head Start, Early Head Start, early intervention programs or other such programs, who demonstrate educational needs on the basis of a prekindergarten assessment, and who are eligible to enter kindergarten the next school year.
- (3) A curriculum or several curricula that are recommended by the Task Force. The Task Force may consider curricula used by established

1 2

prekindergarten programs such as WINGS, Bright Beginnings, and 1 2 others. These curricula shall (i) focus primarily on oral language and 3 emergent literacy, (ii) engage children through key experiences and 4 provide background knowledge requisite for formal learning and successful reading in the early elementary years, (iii) involve active 5 learning, (iv) promote measurable kindergarten language-readiness 6 7 skills that focus on emergent literacy and mathematical skills, and (v) 8 develop skills that will prepare children emotionally and socially for 9 kindergarten. 10 **(4)** An emphasis on ongoing family involvement with the prekindergarten 11 program. 12 Evaluation of child progress through pre and postassessment of (5) 13 children as well as ongoing assessment of the children by teachers. 14 (6) Guidelines for a system to reimburse local school boards and systems, 15 private child care providers, and other entities willing to establish and 16 provide prekindergarten programs to serve at-risk children. A process 17 and system for reimbursing providers that build upon the existing child 18 care subsidy reimbursement system. 19 (7) A system built upon existing local school boards and systems, private child care providers, and other entities who demonstrate the ability to 20 21 establish or expand prekindergarten capacity. 22 A quality-control system. Participating providers shall comply with (8) 23 standards and guidelines as established by the Department of Health 24 and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, and the 25 Task Force. The Department may use the child care rating system to 26 assist in determining program participation. 27 (9) Standards for minimum teacher qualifications. A portion of the 28 classroom sites initially funded shall have at least one teacher who is 29 certified or provisionally certified in birth to kindergarten education. 30 A local contribution. Programs must demonstrate that they are (10)31 accessing resources other than "More At Four". 32 A system of accountability. (11)33 Collaboration with State agencies and other organizations. The (12)34 Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public 35 Instruction, and the Task Force shall collaborate with State agencies 36 and other organizations such as the North Carolina Partnership for 37 Children, Inc., in the design and implementation of the pilot. 38 Consideration of the reallocation of existing funds. In order to (13)39 maximize current funding and resources, the Department of Health and 40 Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Task 41 Force shall consider the reallocation of existing funds from State and

local programs that provide prekindergarten related care and services.

1 (14) Recommendations for long-term organizational placement and administration of the program.

SECTION 15.(d) In development of the "More At Four" pilot, the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction and the Task Force, shall:

- (1) Contract with an independent research organization, outside the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction, with proven expertise in evaluation of prekindergarten programs, for the design of an evaluation component. The evaluation component shall facilitate longitudinal review of the program and child-specific outcomes to include, at a minimum, participants' readiness for kindergarten, percentage of participants scoring at or above grade level on the third grade end-of-grade test, and high school graduation rates.
- (2) Collaborate in the development of a system to collect and maintain child-specific information to provide for the long-term evaluation of the pilot. The system shall be developed in a manner which builds upon existing State and local systems and which facilitates the interface with the N.C. Student Information Management System.

SECTION 15.(e) State funds appropriated under this act for the "More At Four" pilot program shall not supplant current expenditures by counties, local partnerships, or other recipients of State and federal funds, allocated and expended on behalf of young children.

SECTION 15.(f) In order to maximize and coordinate funding for prekindergarten programs for four-year-olds with demonstrated educational needs, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Task Force shall identify and make recommendations on the reallocation of funds from existing State and local programs providing prekindergarten related care and services, including child care subsidies. All potential funding sources, including federal as well as State-funded efforts, shall be identified.

SECTION 15.(g) The Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Task Force shall report by January 1, 2002, and May 1, 2002, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services on the progress in complying with this section. A final report along with recommendations for changes or expansion of the program shall be presented to the 2003 General Assembly.

PART XVI. EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 16. This act is effective when it becomes law.