

Children and Families

See full summary documents for additional detail

H918 - Expedite Permanency/DHHS Report SNAP/TANF. (Ratified)

House Bill 918 would have amended various abuse, neglect, and dependency laws to do the following:

- Ensured the safety of children in out-of-home placements.
- Expedited permanency planning hearings for children who have been removed from the home.
- Created a presumption that foster parents with whom a child has lived continuously for nine months are deemed nonrelative kin.
- Created an aggravating circumstance for the exposure of unlawful controlled substances in utero or controlled substances in violation of the law in utero.
- Required the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Social Services (DSS) to report annually on certain expenditures for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

House Bill 918 was ratified on June 25, 2020, and was vetoed by the Governor on July 2, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.9: Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant Increased Availability to Address Immediate Child Care Needs . (SL 2020-4)

Section 4.9 of S.L. 2020-4 amends Section 1.1(a) of Session Law 2019-192 to change the appropriations from federal block grants for child care and development during the 2019-20 fiscal year. The funding for Child Care Services is increased from \$232,109,943 to \$268,109,943, and the funding for the Quality and Availability Initiatives (TEACH Program) is increased from \$55,217,124 to \$67, 217,124.

This section became effective May 4, 2020.

H1105 - Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0.

Sec. 3.7A: Flexibility for Certain Child Care Licensing Requirements . (SL 2020-97)

Section 3.7A(a) of S.L. 2020-97 creates a new section, G.S. 110-98.5, in Article 7 of Chapter 110 of the General Statutes regarding care for school-age children during a state of emergency. A community-based organization is authorized to provide care for school-age children at a remote learning facility when remote or virtual learning is required due to a declared state of emergency. The community-based organization must be registered with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) through a process consistent with the registration process the Department uses for licensed child care facilities. Care provided to school-age children pursuant to this section is not considered child care as defined under G.S. 110-86.

Sec. 3.7A(b) of S.L. 2020-97 amends the exemption for cooperative arrangements from the definition of child care found in G.S. 110-86(2)(i). It clarifies cooperative arrangements among parents to provide care for their own children as a convenience rather than for employment includes arrangements between a group of parents, regardless of whether the parents are working, to provide for the instructional needs of their children.

Sec. 3.7A(c) of S.L. 2020-97 requires any community-based organization operating pursuant to subsection (a) of this section during the COVID-19 pandemic to comply with the same COVID-19 related sanitation requirements as required of licensed child care facilities.

This section became effective September 4, 2020.

S168 - DHHS & Other Revisions. (Ratified)

Senate Bill 168 made a number of changes in the health and human services area. The bill made primarily technical and conforming changes to laws pertaining to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services and the Division of Public Health in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The bill included changes to allow the Chief Medical Examiner to appoint emergency medical examiners during a state of emergency and to specify that all information and records provided by a city, county, or other public entity to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concerning a death investigation will retain the same degree of confidentiality it had while in the possession of the city, county or other public entity. The bill made technical, conforming, and other changes to DHHS Block Grants. Finally, the bill contained a privilege exception to the reporting requirement for crimes against juveniles for psychiatric physicians.

Senate Bill 168 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 26, 2020, and vetoed by the Governor on July 6, 2020.

S361 - Healthy NC. (SL 2020-82)

Session Law 2020-82 (1) enacts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Licensure Compact (PSYPACT), (2) allows marriage and family therapists to conduct the first-level exam for involuntary commitment, (3) eliminates redundancy in adult care home inspections, (4) modifies step therapy protocols, and (5) clarifies the use of coronavirus relief funds allocated to the North Carolina community Health Center Association. This act has various effective dates. Please see the full summary for details.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 4G.2: Successful Transition/Foster Care Youth. (SL 2020-78)

Section 4G.2 of S.L. 2020-78 directs the Foster Care Transitional Living Initiative Fund to continue to fund and support transitional living services that demonstrate positive outcomes for youth, attract significant private sector funding, and lead to the development of evidence-based programs to serve the at-risk population. The Fund shall continue to support a demonstration project with services provided by Youth Villages to reach specified goals.

Section 4G.2 requires the Fund to support transitional living services, public-private partnership, impact measurement and evaluation, and advance of evidence-based process while continuing to implement its goals.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.13: Marriage Licenses. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.13 of S.L. 2020-3 allows any register of deeds, who can positively identify each applicant for a marriage license to issue a marriage license via remote audio video communication during a declaration of emergency issued under G.S. 166A-19.20. This section also extends the time from 60 days to 120 days from the date of the issuance of a marriage license to celebrate the marriage in any place within the State.

This section became effective on May 4, 2020, and applies to any marriage license issued on or after February 1, 2020, and expires August 1, 2020, and any marriage license issued on or before that date must be valid for 120 days.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.32: Extend the North Carolina Child Well-Being Transformation Council. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.32 of S.L. 2020-3 amended Section 24.1(i) of S.L. 2018-5 to extend the time for the North Carolina Child Well-Being Transformation Council to submit their final report from June 30, 2020 to August 1, 2020.

This act became law on May 4, 2020.