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SENATE BILL DRS15447-MLfa-141D

Short Title: COVID-19 Recovery Act. (Public)

Sponsors: *To view bill sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly's web site.*

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AID TO NORTH CAROLINIANS IN RESPONSE TO THE
3 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) CRISIS.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5
6 **PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

7
8 **TITLE OF ACT**

9 **SECTION 1.1.** This act shall be known as the "2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act."

10
11 **DEFINITIONS**

12 **SECTION 1.2.** Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply in this
13 act:

- 14 (1) Coronavirus or COVID-19. – The Coronavirus Disease 2019.
15 (2) COVID-19 Recovery Legislation. – The following legislation enacted by
16 Congress:
17 a. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act,
18 P.L. 116-136.
19 b. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, P.L. 116-127.
20 c. The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental
21 Appropriations Act, 2020, P.L. 116-123.
22 d. Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, P.L.
23 116-139.

24
25 **FINDINGS AND PURPOSE**

26 **SECTION 1.3.** The General Assembly finds that State government must serve as a
27 facilitator in assisting local governments, communities, families, workers and other individuals,
28 and businesses in accessing federal relief and recovery funds related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
29 The purpose of this act is to fulfill the General Assembly's constitutional duty to appropriate all
30 funds, including federal funds appropriated or otherwise made available under the COVID-19
31 Recovery Legislation, and to direct the use of those funds in a manner that is consistent with the
32 authorizing federal legislation and that responsibly provides for the public health and economic
33 well-being of the State.

34
35 **REQUIREMENT TO MAXIMIZE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS**



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1 **SECTION 1.4.** The appropriations and allocations made in this act are for maximum
2 amounts necessary to implement this act. State agencies shall maximize the use of federal funds
3 made available in this act wherever possible within the allowable uses prior to using other State
4 funds.

5 6 **CONFLICT WITH FEDERAL LAW**

7 **SECTION 1.5.** If an allocation made under this act is found to be disallowed by
8 federal law, the disallowed allocation is repealed, and the Office of State Budget and
9 Management (OSBM) shall transfer the amount of the disallowed allocation to the Coronavirus
10 Relief Reserve established in Section 2.1 of this act. If the funds have been allocated to a
11 nonprofit corporation, and the use of funds by the nonprofit corporation is disallowed by federal
12 law, the nonprofit corporation shall return the amount of funds allocated to the nonprofit
13 corporation to OSBM to transfer the funds into the Coronavirus Relief Reserve. Amounts
14 transferred into the Coronavirus Relief Reserve pursuant to this section are receipts that do not
15 constitute an "appropriation made by law," as that phrase is used in Section 7(1) of Article V of
16 the North Carolina Constitution.

17 18 **GENERAL GUIDANCE ON USE OF FUNDS**

19 **SECTION 1.6.** OSBM shall work with the recipient State agencies to budget receipts
20 awarded pursuant to COVID-19 Recovery Legislation according to the program needs and within
21 the parameters of the respective granting entities and applicable federal laws and regulations.
22 State agencies shall not use funds received pursuant to COVID-19 Recovery Legislation for
23 recurring purposes. Revenue replacement is not a permissible use of funds received pursuant to
24 The CARES Act, P.L. 116-136. Depending on the nature of the award, additional State personnel
25 may be employed on a temporary or time-limited basis.

26 27 **REQUIRED REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS**

28 **SECTION 1.7.** In addition to any report required under this act or any other law,
29 OSBM shall provide a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
30 and the Fiscal Research Division by March 1, 2021, detailing the use of funds allocated under
31 Section 3.3 of this act. Additionally, each State agency or department that receives federal grant
32 funds under Section 4.1 of this act shall provide a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on
33 Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division no later than 90 days from the day
34 the grant period ends detailing the use of funds. The report required from OSBM under this
35 section shall include the amount of funds allocated to each State agency, State department, and
36 nonprofit organization, how the funds were used by each State agency, State department, and
37 nonprofit organization, and the amount of funds allocated to each State agency, State department,
38 and nonprofit organization that remained unspent as of December 30, 2020. The report required
39 from each State agency or department that receives federal grant funds under Section 4.1 of this
40 act shall include the amount of funds granted, the source of the funds, how the funds were used,
41 and the amount of funds that remained unspent at the end of the grant period.

42 43 **PART II. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVES AND FUNDS**

44 45 **ESTABLISHMENT OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF RESERVE**

46 **SECTION 2.1.** The State Controller shall establish a Coronavirus Relief Reserve
47 (Reserve) in the General Fund to maintain federal funds received from the Coronavirus Relief
48 Fund created under The CARES Act, P.L. 116-136, to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19
49 outbreak in North Carolina. The State Controller shall transfer funds to the Coronavirus Relief
50 Fund established in Section 2.2 of this act only as needed to meet the appropriations set out in
51 this act and only upon request of the Director of the Budget. Funds reserved in the Reserve do

1 not constitute an "appropriation made by law," as that phrase is used in Section 7(1) of Article V
2 of the North Carolina Constitution.

3 4 **ESTABLISHMENT OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND**

5 **SECTION 2.2.** The Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund) is established. The purpose of
6 the Fund is to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance from the effects of
7 COVID-19, consistent with the provisions of this act and subsequent legislation addressing the
8 effects of COVID-19. The Fund shall be maintained as a special fund and administered by OSBM
9 to carry out the provisions of this and subsequent acts necessitated as a result of the COVID-19
10 outbreak. All funds allocated from the Fund must be used for necessary expenditures incurred
11 due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19. Only expenditures incurred during
12 the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020, are eligible for funding
13 from this Fund.

14 15 **ESTABLISHMENT OF DOT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF RESERVE**

16 **SECTION 2.3.** The State Controller shall establish a DOT Coronavirus Relief
17 Reserve (DOT Reserve) in the General Fund to maintain certain federal funds transferred from
18 the Reserve established in Section 2.1 of this act that are eligible to mitigate the impact of the
19 COVID-19 outbreak in North Carolina on the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the State
20 transportation system. The State Controller shall transfer the sum of three hundred million dollars
21 (\$300,000,000) from the Reserve to the DOT Reserve. It is the intent of the General Assembly
22 to appropriate a sum of up to three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000) if DOT experiences
23 a revenue shortfall and The CARES Act, P.L. 116-136, is amended to allow the use of federal
24 funds for that purpose. Funds that are reserved in the DOT Reserve do not constitute an
25 "appropriation made by law," as that phrase is used in Section 7(1) of Article V of the North
26 Carolina Constitution.

27 28 **ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF RESERVE**

29 **SECTION 2.4.** The State Controller shall establish a Local Government
30 Coronavirus Relief Reserve (Local Reserve) in the General Fund to maintain certain federal
31 funds transferred from the Reserve established in Section 2.1 of this act that are eligible to
32 mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in North Carolina on the revenue of local
33 governments. The State Controller shall transfer the sum of three hundred million dollars
34 (\$300,000,000) from the Reserve to the Local Reserve. It is the intent of the General Assembly
35 to appropriate a sum of up to three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000) if local governments
36 experience a revenue shortfall and The CARES Act, P.L. 116-136, is amended to allow the use
37 of federal funds for that purpose. Funds that are reserved in the Local Reserve do not constitute
38 an "appropriation made by law," as that phrase is used in Section 7(1) of Article V of the North
39 Carolina Constitution.

40 41 **PART III. TRANSFER, APPROPRIATIONS, AND ALLOCATIONS**

42 43 **TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM RELIEF RESERVE TO RELIEF FUND**

44 **SECTION 3.1.** Transfer of Funds from Relief Reserve to Relief Fund. – The State
45 Controller shall transfer the sum of five hundred ninety-eight million ninety thousand dollars
46 (\$598,090,000) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year from the Reserve established in Section 2.1 of this
47 act to the Fund established in Section 2.2 of this act.

48 49 **APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM RELIEF FUND TO OSBM**

50 **SECTION 3.2.** Appropriation of Funds from Relief Fund to OSBM. – There is
51 appropriated from the Fund to OSBM the sum of four hundred seventy-three million ninety

1 thousand dollars (\$473,090,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to be
2 allocated and used as provided in Section 3.3 of this act. The funds appropriated in this section
3 shall not revert at the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year but shall remain available to expend until
4 December 30, 2020.

5 6 **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO OSBM**

7 **SECTION 3.3.** Allocations of Funds. – OSBM shall allocate the funds appropriated
8 in Section 3.2 of this act as follows:

- 9 (1) \$50,000,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services to be allocated,
10 at their discretion, to the entities listed in this subdivision to be used for (i) the
11 purchase of supplies and equipment necessary for life safety, health, and
12 sanitation, such as ventilators, touch free thermometers, gowns, disinfectant,
13 and sanitizing wipes and (ii) the purchase of personal protective equipment
14 that meets the federal standards and guidelines from the Centers for Disease
15 Control, such as surgical and respiratory masks and gloves.
- 16 a. North Carolina Healthcare Foundation, a non-profit corporation.
17 b. North Carolina Senior Living Association, a non-profit corporation.
18 c. North Carolina Medical Society to allocate to independent medical
19 practices in this State.
- 20 (2) \$6,000,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services to allocate
21 equally among each of the six food banks in this State. The food banks are
22 encouraged to use the funds allocated in this subdivision to purchase food
23 from North Carolina–based farmers and vendors.
- 24 (3) \$15,000,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
25 Social Services, to be used for facilities licensed to accept State-County
26 Special Assistance. These funds shall be used to provide a one-time payment
27 to these facilities to offset the increased costs of serving residents during the
28 COVID-19 emergency. Each eligible facility shall receive an amount equal to
29 nine hundred thirty-seven dollars (\$937.00) for each resident of the facility,
30 as of April 1, 2020, who is a recipient of State-County Special Assistance.
31 Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as an obligation by the General
32 Assembly to appropriate funds for the purpose of this section, or as an
33 entitlement by any facility, resident of a facility, or other person to receive
34 financial assistance under this section. For purposes of this subdivision, the
35 following definitions apply:
- 36 a. Facility licensed to accept State-County Special Assistance payments.
37 – Any residential care facility that is (i) licensed by the Department of
38 Health and Human Services and (ii) authorized to accept State-County
39 Special Assistance payments from its residents.
- 40 b. State-County Special Assistance. – The program authorized by
41 G.S. 108A-40.
- 42 (4) \$2,250,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
43 Social Services, to assist in serving children in foster care during the
44 COVID-19 emergency. These funds shall be used for monthly supplemental
45 payments in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each child
46 receiving foster care assistance payments for the months of April 2020,
47 through June 2020.
- 48 (5) \$290,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social
49 Services, to provide funds for the LINKS program, a foster care support
50 program for youth ages 13-21 years. These funds shall be used to support
51 youth in the LINKS program who are not receiving foster care assistance

- 1 payments and need assistance with housing or transitional costs due to
2 COVID-19 and are allocated as follows:
- 3 a. \$250,000 for LINKS Transitional Living Services.
 - 4 b. \$40,000 for LINKS Transitional Housing.
- 5 (6) \$20,000,000 to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to be
6 used for animal depopulation and disposal activities to address possible future
7 supply chain impacts from the closure of animal processing plants due to
8 COVID-19.
- 9 (7) \$10,000,000 to OSBM to allocate to the North Carolina Association of Free
10 and Charitable Clinics (NCAFCC), a nonprofit organization, to be used for
11 distribution to its member clinics to cover the cost of eligible health services
12 provided during the COVID-19 emergency. By August 1, 2020, NCAFCC
13 shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and
14 Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division on a plan for allocating the
15 funds received under this section, and by February 1, 2021, on the use of these
16 funds by recipients.
- 17 (8) \$5,000,000 to OSBM to allocate to the North Carolina Community Health
18 Centers Association (NCHCA), a nonprofit organization, to be used for
19 distribution to its member health centers to cover the cost of eligible health
20 services provided during the COVID-19 emergency. By August 1, 2020,
21 NCHCA shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health
22 and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division on a plan for allocating
23 the funds received under this section, and by February 1, 2021, on the use of
24 these funds by recipients.
- 25 (9) \$25,000,000 to the Community Colleges System Office to be used by the
26 System Office and to be allocated to community college campuses to enhance
27 online learning capacity and for increased costs associated with moving to
28 online education for students, for facility sanitation prior to reopening
29 campuses, to provide eligible necessary resources and supports for faculty and
30 staff, and to cover expenses for expanded demands on information technology
31 and other services to effectively respond to COVID-19.
- 32 (10) \$42,400,000 to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina
33 to be allocated to constituent institutions for the purpose of moving
34 coursework and exams online, for facility sanitation prior to reopening
35 campuses, and to provide eligible assistance to students and employees,
36 including counseling services, information technology support, and other
37 services related to the impact of COVID-19 on institutional operations.
- 38 (11) \$10,000,000 to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina
39 to be allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) for the
40 Authority to provide funds to each eligible private postsecondary institution,
41 as defined in G.S. 116-280(3), by apportioning an amount equal to the
42 following:
- 43 a. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the institution's relative share of
44 full-time equivalent students who were enrolled as of March 13, 2020,
45 who received scholarships pursuant to Article 34 of Chapter 116 of the
46 General Statutes for the spring semester of the 2019-2020 academic
47 year.
 - 48 b. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the institution's relative share of
49 full-time equivalent students who were enrolled as of March 13, 2020,
50 who had not received scholarships pursuant to Article 34 of Chapter

- 1 116 of the General Statutes for the spring semester of the 2019-2020
2 academic year.
- 3 These funds shall be used to transition to online education for students and to
4 provide funds for students and families impacted by COVID-19.
- 5 (12) \$100,000 to OSBM to allocate to the General Assembly to be used to
6 reimburse for funds previously provided to Wake Forest University Health
7 Services for COVID-19 research data to facilitate future work of legislative
8 committees.
- 9 (13) \$20,000,000 to OSBM to allocate to Wake Forest University Health Services
10 to be used to expand its COVID-19 study to include syndromic surveillance
11 and representative sample antibody testing to provide policymakers and
12 researchers with near real-time coronavirus prevalence, hospitalization, and
13 fatality data.
- 14 (13a) \$15,000,000 to OSBM to allocate to the Duke University Human Vaccine
15 Institute (DHVI) of the Duke University School of Medicine to develop a safe
16 and effective COVID-19 vaccine to the public as soon as possible.
- 17 (14) \$5,000,000 to the Department of Commerce for a North Carolina nonprofit
18 corporation with which the Department contracts pursuant to
19 G.S. 143B-431.01(b) as a stimulus investment in Visit North Carolina's
20 marketing budget to be used for the following purposes and in the following
21 amounts:
- 22 a. \$4,500,000 for developing COVID-19-specific concepts, strategies,
23 and materials tailored to educate people on ways to (i) travel in a safe
24 and socially distant way and (ii) prevent community reintroduction of
25 the epidemic.
- 26 b. \$500,000 for research tools and analysis necessary to implement the
27 provisions of this subdivision.
- 28 (15) \$70,000,000 to OSBM to be used for the continuity of operation needs across
29 State government. Costs eligible under this subdivision may include, but are
30 not limited to, covering overtime costs at mental health institutions, prisons,
31 juvenile facilities, and veterans homes; purchasing critical information
32 technology equipment and software licenses; enhancing telepresence services
33 in public safety facilities and the court system; providing COVID-19 testing
34 for employees of the Division of Prisons at the Department of Public Safety;
35 and purchasing emergency sanitation and hygienic supplies. Provided that the
36 United States Department of Labor does not approve additional funding for
37 the Customer Call Center operated by the Division of Employment Security,
38 funds may also be used to hire additional time-limited staff in the Customer
39 Call Center to meet the unprecedented demand for services. Up to two million
40 dollars (\$2,000,000) of the funds allocated in this subdivision may be used to
41 establish a temporary North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office in
42 accordance with Section 6.25 of this act. OSBM shall provide a report to the
43 Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations no later than
44 August 15, 2020, detailing the allocation of funds under this subdivision. The
45 report shall include which State agencies received allocations, the amounts
46 disbursed, the amount spent in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and for what
47 purposes the funds were used by fund code and line-item detail.
- 48 (16) \$1,800,000 to OSBM to allocate to the Old North State Medical Society, Inc.,
49 a nonprofit corporation, to be used to target rural areas and African American
50 communities with outreach, health education, and testing to address the
51 COVID-19 disparities in North Carolina.

- 1 (17) \$250,000 to the Department of Information Technology to provide funds for
2 the purchase of mobile Wi-Fi gateway router devices for counties designated
3 as development tier one or tier two areas, as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08.
4 Eligible counties shall submit a request to the Department detailing the
5 number of devices needed and any specific information the Department may
6 require to ensure device connectability and adequate coverage and
7 deployment. A county receiving devices pursuant to this section shall be
8 required to comply with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act,
9 including the use of any necessary filters, and shall be responsible for any
10 costs associated with connection and data usage for the device. Funds
11 provided pursuant to this section shall be used to purchase no more than 25
12 devices for any single county. The Department is encouraged to seek grant
13 funding and donations to assist in implementing this program.
- 14 (18) \$15,000,000 to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to allocate to
15 the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory (Collaboratory) at the University of
16 North Carolina at Chapel Hill to coordinate efforts among the following
17 entities and to provide funds to each entity in an equal amount: Gillings School
18 of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
19 Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Duke University
20 School of Medicine, Wake Forest School of Medicine, and Campbell
21 University School of Osteopathic Medicine. The funds shall be used for (i) the
22 rapid development of a countermeasure of neutralizing antibodies for
23 COVID-19 that can be used as soon as possible to both prevent infection, and
24 for those infected, treat infection, (ii) bringing a safe and effective COVID-19
25 vaccine to the public as soon as possible, (iii) community testing initiatives,
26 and (iv) other research related to COVID-19. The Collaboratory shall facilitate
27 among these entities best practices and strategies to maximize resources and
28 achieve a comprehensive response to COVID-19. The Collaboratory may also
29 assemble an advisory panel of representatives from the entities receiving
30 funds pursuant to this subdivision as necessary to discuss, review, and analyze
31 progress towards meeting the goals for the use of the funds. The
32 Collaboratory, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Brody School of
33 Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine, Wake Forest School of
34 Medicine, and Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine shall
35 report on the progress of the development of a countermeasure and vaccine,
36 findings from their community testing initiatives, and other research related
37 to COVID-19, and the use of the appropriated funds received pursuant to this
38 section to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human
39 Services by no later than September 1, 2020.
- 40 (19) \$70,000,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to be used in accordance
41 with Section 5.29 of this act.
- 42 (20) \$56,000,000 to the Department of Public Instruction for school nutrition
43 services provided in response to COVID-19 by public school units
44 participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast
45 Program from March 16, 2020, through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
46 Funds for these services shall be allocated in the same manner as if the
47 participating public school units were reimbursed by school meal receipts or
48 federal funds.
- 49 (21) \$9,000,000 to the Department of Information Technology to use for the
50 Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Fund to provide
51 supplementary project funding for grant recipients that were awarded grants

on or after April 1, 2020. The Department may award supplementary project funds pursuant to this subdivision to grant recipients upon a showing by the grant recipient that the supplementary project funds (i) will increase the number of households, businesses, or schools receiving broadband access or (ii) will expedite the provision of broadband access in accordance with the project that grant funds were awarded for. The Department and a grant recipient shall amend any existing grant agreements as necessary to reflect any changes to the scope or parameters of a project resulting from the awarding of supplementary funds. The awarding of supplementary project funds pursuant to this subdivision shall not be subject to the single grant award limitation provided in G.S. 143B-1373(i), or any matching requirement imposed by G.S. 143B-1373(j).

- (22) Subject to Section 6.26 of this act, \$25,000,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services to be used to expand public and private initiatives for COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and trends tracking and analysis through, but not limited to, all of the following ways:
 - a. Building capacity for widespread COVID-19 diagnostic testing to enable rapid case-based interventions.
 - b. Building capacity for widespread COVID-19 antibody testing to enable rapid deployment when such testing becomes available.
 - c. Expanding contact tracing workforce and infrastructure to routinely identify potentially exposed persons and take appropriate public health actions.
 - d. Increasing research and data tools and analysis infrastructure to support better predictive models, surveillance and response strategies.

PART IV. ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS

APPROPRIATION OF COVID-19 FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS AND RECEIPTS

SECTION 4.1.(a) Except for funds subject to subsection (c) of this section or Section 2.1 of this act, funds received from federal grants authorized under the COVID-19 Recovery Legislation are appropriated in the amounts provided in the notification of award from the federal government or any entity acting on behalf of the federal government to administer the federal funds. State agencies may, with approval of the Director of the Budget, spend funds received from federal receipts and federal grants resulting from enactment of the COVID-19 Recovery Legislation that are not otherwise subject to Section 2.1 of this act. Section 2.2(c) of S.L. 2019-192 shall not apply to grant funds received under the COVID-19 Recovery Legislation.

SECTION 4.1.(b) The programs and grant amounts in the schedule set forth in this subsection are estimates of North Carolina's allocations from the COVID-19 Recovery Legislation to be deposited in the State's Treasury and administered by State agencies. This schedule is meant to be illustrative of federal grants that have, or will be, received by the State in addition to the approximately three billion five hundred million dollars (\$3,500,000,000) from the Coronavirus Relief Fund created under the CARES Act, P.L. 116-136. These amounts are not inclusive of federal funds distributed or paid directly to individuals, businesses, health care providers, or private postsecondary institutions:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund	\$95,600,000
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	\$396,300,000
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	\$179,700,000
Child Care and Development Block Grant	\$118,100,000
Community Services Block Grant	\$25,900,000

1	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	\$49,900,000
2	Child Welfare Services	\$1,600,000
3	Supportive Services	\$6,200,000
4	Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals	\$7,400,000
5	Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals	\$14,800,000
6	Family Caregivers	\$3,100,000
7	Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans	\$600,000
8	Centers for Independent Living	\$2,200,000
9	Ryan White HIV/AIDS	\$1,100,000
10	CDC Grant	\$13,800,000
11	Minimum CDC Grant	\$15,400,000
12	Homeless Assistance/ ESG – State	\$18,400,000
13	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	\$1,200,000
14	Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	\$13,900,000
15	Community Health Center	\$78,000
16	Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program	\$2,500,000
17	Hospital Preparedness Program	\$770,000
18	Emergency Grant to Address SA	\$2,000,000
19	Unemployment Insurance Base – Administration	\$22,500,000
20	Unemployment Insurance Supplemental – Administration	\$22,500,000
21	Dislocated Worker Grants	\$6,000,000
22	Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Commodities	\$19,700,000
23	TEFAP Administration	\$8,200,000
24	Manufacturing Extension	\$1,500,000
25	CDBG – State	\$28,500,000
26	National Endowment for the Arts	\$507,000
27	Institute for Museum and Library Sciences	\$948,000
28	Justice Assistance Grants – State	\$15,400,000
29	Emergency Performance Management Grant	\$2,600,000
30	Family Violence Prevention	\$777,000
31	Urbanized Area Formula Program	\$38,473,000
32	Formula Grants for Rural Area Program	\$94,941,000
33	Airports Grants	\$2,765,000
34	Total Estimated Funding	\$1,235,859,000

35 **SECTION 4.1.(c)** No funds authorized under The CARES Act, P.L. 116-136, for
36 election security are appropriated in this act. It is the intent of the General Assembly to
37 appropriate funds for election security in a subsequent act of the General Assembly.
38

39 **APPROPRIATION FOR SMALL BUSINESS LOAN ASSISTANCE**

40 **SECTION 4.2.(a)** Program. – Of the funds appropriated in this act from the
41 Coronavirus Relief Fund, the sum of one hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$125,000,000) is
42 allocated to the Office of State Budget and Management for Golden LEAF to provide grants to
43 entities for the purpose of making emergency loans to assist small businesses with business needs
44 during periods of economic hardship occasioned by the COVID-19 epidemic. It is the intent of
45 the General Assembly for an equitable portion of funds allocated in this section to be used for
46 the benefit of historically underutilized small businesses. The following shall apply to the
47 program and loans made under the program:

- 48 (1) Golden LEAF shall require a lender to provide assistance to, or direct to an
49 appropriate entity that provides assistance to, a qualifying business with
50 applying for available federal assistance.

- 1 (2) Golden LEAF shall require a lender to prioritize loans for establishments (i)
 2 with 100 or fewer full-time equivalent employees determined as of the State
 3 of Emergency (ii) that are independently owned by a qualifying business.
- 4 (3) Golden LEAF shall work with the N.C. Small Business Center Network, the
 5 Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses within the Department of
 6 Administration, the N.C. Small Business and Technology Development
 7 Center, the Institute of Minority Economic Development, Inc., and other
 8 similar entities with the goal of ensuring all qualifying businesses are aware
 9 of the program.
- 10 (4) The loan shall have an interest rate of up to four percent (4%) before the date
 11 of a triggering event and an interest rate of at least five and one-half percent
 12 (5.5%) on and after the date of a triggering event.
- 13 (5) The term of the loan shall not exceed 66 months and shall be amortized over
 14 the term of the loan.
- 15 (6) A qualifying business shall certify in writing that it will use a loan provided
 16 under the program for employee compensation, mortgage, rent, utilities, and
 17 other operating costs and expenses incurred on behalf of a business located in
 18 this State.
- 19 (7) A loan provided under the program is limited to no more than fifty thousand
 20 dollars (\$50,000) per qualifying business.
- 21 (8) Upon the occurrence of a triggering event, repayment of the loan shall
 22 commence. A triggering event occurs six months following the closing of a
 23 loan made under the program.
- 24 (9) Loans are made pursuant to an agreement with a qualifying business that
 25 includes at least the following:
- 26 a. A provision requiring a qualifying business to certify in writing that it
 27 will use a loan provided under the program for employee
 28 compensation, mortgage, rent, utilities, and other operating costs and
 29 expenses incurred on behalf of a business located in this State.
- 30 b. A provision establishing the method for determining compliance with
 31 the program.
- 32 c. A provision requiring the qualifying business to first repay the loan
 33 amount with any federal assistance received by the business that
 34 represents a duplication of benefits; provided that, the repayment does
 35 not disqualify or impair the federal assistance available to the business.
- 36 d. A provision requiring the loan is secured through a Uniform
 37 Commercial Code financing statement.
- 38 e. A provision requiring recapture of loans funds if a business fails to
 39 comply with the requirements of the program. The lender shall
 40 recapture loan funds only if the lender determines there is a reasonable
 41 expectation that the recovery of funds will exceed the cost of recovery.
- 42 (10) The awarding of new loans using State funds appropriated in this section shall
 43 cease upon six months following the date the State of Emergency ends.
- 44 **SECTION 4.2.(b)** Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following
 45 definitions apply:
- 46 (1) Compensation. – Defined in G.S. 105-163.1.
- 47 (2) Employee. – Defined in G.S. 143B-437.02A.
- 48 (3) Golden LEAF. – The Golden L.E.A.F. (Long-Term Economic Advancement
 49 Foundation), Inc.
- 50 (4) Net loan funds. – The total loan fund appropriation authorized by this section
 51 less (i) the cost of administering the loans made under the program, not to

1 exceed five percent (5%) of the total amount loaned under the program and
2 (ii) the State's loan funds that are not recaptured.

3 (5) Office. – The Office of State Budget and Management.

4 (6) Qualifying business. – A business with a physical presence in the State that is
5 able to show economic losses as a result of COVID-19.

6 (7) State of Emergency. – Executive Order No. 116 issued March 10, 2020, by
7 Governor Roy A. Cooper, including any amendments issued by Executive
8 Order.

9 **SECTION 4.2.(c)** Miscellaneous. – In order to receive the funds appropriated under
10 this act, Golden LEAF shall provide matching funds from other non-State funds for such funds
11 in the amount of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of non-State funds for every one hundred twenty-five
12 dollars (\$125.00) of State funds allocated in this section. State funds allocated in this section may
13 be matched with any prior expenditure by Golden LEAF of non-State funds for entities making
14 short-term loans to businesses during periods of economic hardship occasioned by the
15 COVID-19 epidemic. Six months following the date the State of Emergency ends and every six
16 months thereafter, Golden LEAF shall remit the net loan funds that have been received to the
17 Office, which shall deposit the funds into the Coronavirus Relief Reserve. Amounts deposited
18 into the Reserve under this subsection are receipts that do not constitute an "appropriation made
19 by law," as that phrase is used in Section 7(1) of Article V of the North Carolina Constitution.

20 **SECTION 4.2.(d)** Reporting. – Every six months, Golden LEAF shall submit a
21 report on the program to the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement
22 Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division. The duty to report pursuant to this
23 section shall cease after the submission of the report following when Golden LEAF has remitted
24 the entirety of the net loan funds to the Office. Each report shall contain all of the following:

25 (1) The number of recipients of loans for each represented North American
26 Industry Classification System Code.

27 (2) The number of jobs retained.

28 (3) The number of loans awarded.

29 (4) The average loan amount.

30 (5) The total amount loaned to date.

31 (6) The total amount of loans repaid to date.

32 (7) The total amount of loans defaulted on to date.

33 (8) The total amount of loans defaulted that have been recaptured.

34 35 **PART V. EDUCATION POLICY REVISIONS**

36 37 **DEFINITIONS**

38 **SECTION 5.1.** For the purposes of this Part, the following definitions apply:

39 (1) Authority. – State Education Assistance Authority.

40 (2) Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emergency. – The period beginning
41 March 10, 2020, and continuing until the Governor signs an executive order
42 rescinding Executive Order No. 116 (Declaration of a State of Emergency to
43 Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of
44 COVID-19).

45 (3) Federal testing waiver. – The testing waiver granted to the State Board of
46 Education by the United States Department of Education for the 2019-2020
47 school year, pursuant to section 8401(b) of the Elementary and Secondary
48 Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, which, pursuant to
49 G.S. 115C-174.11, eliminated the collection of certain student assessment
50 data for the 2019-2020 school year.

- 1 (4) School closure period. – The period beginning March 16, 2020, and
2 continuing until the latest of the following:
3 a. May 15, 2020.
4 b. The date specified by an executive order superseding the school
5 closure period in Executive Order No. 120 (Additional Limitations on
6 Mass Gatherings, Restrictions on Venues and Long Term Care
7 Facilities, and Extension of School Closure Date).
8 c. The date specified in any executive order superseding the superseding
9 executive order described in sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision.
10 (5) State Board. – The State Board of Education.
11

12 INTRODUCTION

13 **SECTION 5.2.** The purpose of this Part is to clarify or modify certain requirements
14 in consideration of actions and circumstances related to the COVID-19 emergency, including,
15 but not limited to, the federal testing waiver and the school closure period.
16

17 WAIVERS AND MODIFICATIONS RELATED TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TESTING AND 18 ASSESSMENTS

19 **SECTION 5.3.(a)** EOGs and EOCs. – Consistent with the provisions of
20 G.S. 115C-174.11(d), for the 2019-2020 school year, end-of-grade and end-of-course tests are
21 waived.

22 **SECTION 5.3.(b)** ACT. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4), during the fall
23 semester of the 2020-2021 school year, public school units shall administer the norm-referenced
24 college admissions test made available by the State Board to all students who were in the eleventh
25 grade during the 2019-2020 school year who were not administered the test during the 2019-2020
26 school year, unless a student has already taken a comparable test and scored at or above a level
27 set by the State Board.

28 **SECTION 5.3.(c)** Diagnostic and Formative Assessments. – For the 2019-2020
29 school year, for the diagnostic and formative reading assessments for kindergarten, first, second,
30 and third grade students described in G.S. 115C-83.6 and G.S. 115C-174.11(a), additional
31 assessments beyond those administered prior to the school closure period are not required.

32 **SECTION 5.3.(d)** WorkKeys. – For the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school
33 year only, notwithstanding G.S. 115C-174.25, a local school administrative unit shall not be
34 required to administer the WorkKeys tests to any students who complete a concentration in career
35 and technical education courses.
36

37 WAIVERS AND MODIFICATIONS RELATED TO PUBLIC SCHOOL 38 PERFORMANCE, ANNUAL REPORT CARDS FOR SCHOOLS, AND SCHOOL 39 BUILDING REPORTS

40 **SECTION 5.4.(a)** Calculation and Issuance of School Performance Grades. – For
41 the 2020-2021 school year, based on data from the 2019-2020 school year, the provisions of
42 G.S. 115C-12(9)c1. and G.S. 115C-83.15(a) through (f) shall not apply. Notwithstanding
43 G.S. 115C-83.15(g), the State Board is not required to display school report card information for
44 the 2020-2021 school year based on data from the 2019-2020 school year, but shall display a
45 brief explanation that school report cards were not issued for the 2020-2021 school year because
46 assessment data was not collected during the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19.

47 **SECTION 5.4.(b)** Display of School Report Cards. – Notwithstanding
48 G.S. 115C-47(58), 115C-75.8(d)(7), 115C-218.65, 115C-238.66(11), 116-239.8(b)(14), and
49 Section 6(d)(2) of S.L. 2018-32, public school units are not required to display school report card
50 information for the 2020-2021 school year based on data from the 2019-2020 school year, but
51 shall display a brief explanation that school report cards were not issued for the 2020-2021 school

1 year because assessment data was not collected during the 2019-2020 school year due to
2 COVID-19.

3 **SECTION 5.4.(c)** Evaluation of Alternative Programs. – Notwithstanding
4 G.S. 115C-12(24), to the extent educational performance and growth of students in alternative
5 schools and alternative programs are measured based on the accountability system developed
6 under G.S. 115C-83.15 and G.S. 115C-105.35, educational performance and growth of students
7 in alternative schools and alternative programs shall not be evaluated based on data from the
8 2019-2020 school year.

9 **SECTION 5.4.(d)** School Building Reports. – The requirement for local school
10 administrative units to produce and make public a school building report under
11 G.S. 115C-12(9)c3. and G.S. 115C-47(35) shall not apply for the October 15, 2020, report based
12 on building-level data from the 2019-2020 school year.

13 **WAIVERS RELATED TO LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS**

14 **SECTION 5.5.(a)** Low-Performing Schools. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-105.37
15 and G.S. 115C-218.94(a), for the 2020-2021 school year, the following applies:

- 16 (1) The State Board shall not identify additional low-performing schools based
17 on data from the 2019-2020 school year.
- 18 (2) Schools previously identified as low-performing based on data from the
19 2018-2019 school year shall continue to be identified as low-performing.
- 20 (3) Previously identified low-performing schools shall continue to carry out the
21 final plan approved by the local board of education pursuant to
22 G.S. 115C-105.37(a1).
- 23 (4) The State Board and the local board of education shall continue to provide
24 online access to each low-performing school's plan in accordance with
25 G.S. 115C-105.37(a1)(5).
- 26 (5) The written parental notice required by G.S. 115C-105.37(b) is not required
27 to be provided again, but local boards of education of low-performing schools
28 shall include with their online final plans a brief explanation that
29 low-performing identification continues pending assessment data from the
30 2020-2021 school year.

31 **SECTION 5.5.(b)** Continually Low-Performing Schools. – Notwithstanding
32 G.S. 115C-105.37A and G.S. 115C-218.94(b), for the 2020-2021 school year, the following
33 applies:

- 34 (1) The State Board shall not identify additional continually low-performing
35 schools based on data from the 2019-2020 school year.
- 36 (2) Schools previously identified as continually low-performing based on data
37 from the 2018-2019 school year shall continue to be identified as continually
38 low-performing.
- 39 (3) Previously identified continually low-performing schools shall continue to
40 carry out the plan approved by the State Board pursuant to
41 G.S. 115C-105.37A(a).
- 42 (4) Assistance and intervention levels provided for the 2019-2020 school year
43 based on designation as low-performing for two years under
44 G.S. 115C-105.37A(b) or low-performing for three years under
45 G.S. 115C-105.37A(c) shall continue.
- 46 (5) Local boards of education may request to reform a continually
47 low-performing school in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.37B.

48 **SECTION 5.5.(c)** Low-Performing Local School Administrative Units. –
49 Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-105.39A, for the 2020-2021 school year, the following applies:
50

- 1 (1) The State Board shall not identify additional low-performing local school
2 administrative units based on data from the 2019-2020 school year.
- 3 (2) Local school administrative units previously identified as low-performing
4 based on data from the 2018-2019 school year shall continue to be identified
5 as low-performing.
- 6 (3) Previously identified low-performing local school administrative units shall
7 continue to carry out the final plan approved by the local board of education
8 pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.39A(b).
- 9 (4) The State Board and the local board of education shall continue to provide
10 online access to each low-performing local school administrative unit's plan
11 in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.39A(b)(5).
- 12 (5) The written parental notice required by G.S. 115C-105.39A(c) is not required
13 to be provided again, but the local board of education shall include with its
14 online final plan a brief explanation that low-performing identification
15 continues pending assessment data from the 2020-2021 school year.
- 16 (6) The provisions of G.S. 115C-105.39(c) through (e) shall not apply.
17

18 **WAIVERS RELATED TO THE INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

19 **SECTION 5.6.(a)** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 115C-75.7 and
20 G.S. 115C-105.37A(d), for the 2020-2021 school year, the following applies:

- 21 (1) The State Board shall not identify any additional schools as qualifying schools
22 for the Innovative School District based on data from the 2019-2020 school
23 year.
- 24 (2) Schools identified as qualifying schools for the 2019-2020 school year based
25 on data from the 2018-2019 school year shall remain on the qualifying list,
26 and the provisions of G.S. 115C-75.7(b1), (b2), and (d) shall continue to apply
27 to these schools.

28 **SECTION 5.6.(b)** Section 1(c) of S.L. 2019-248 reads as rewritten:

29 **"SECTION 1.(c)** For the purposes of this subsection, a qualifying school is as defined by
30 G.S. 115C-75.5(5), as amended by this act. Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-75.7, as amended by this
31 act, the State Board of Education shall select the following schools to become innovative schools:

- 32 ~~(1) The lowest scoring qualifying school in the State identified based on the~~
33 ~~school performance score calculated from data for the 2019-2020 school year~~
34 ~~to become an innovative school in the 2021-2022 school year.~~
- 35 (2) The lowest scoring qualifying school in the State identified based on the
36 school performance score calculated from data for the 2020-2021 school year
37 to become an innovative school in the 2022-2023 school year."
38

39 **MODIFICATIONS FOR THIRD GRADE RETENTION AND READING** 40 **CAMPS/REQUIREMENT FOR FOURTH GRADE READING ASSESSMENT**

41 **SECTION 5.7.(a)** Third Grade Retention Determination. – For grade level
42 determination for the 2020-2021 school year, the following applies:

- 43 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 115C-83.7 and the requirement in
44 G.S. 115C-288(a) that a principal's authority to grade and classify pupils is
45 limited by the requirements of G.S. 115C-83.7(a), principals shall have
46 authority to determine the appropriate 2020-2021 school year grade level for
47 students in the third grade during the 2019-2020 school year in the same
48 manner as for students in all other grade levels. Principals shall designate
49 whether a retained third grade student is retained due to reading deficiencies.
50 Principals are encouraged to consult with a student's 2019-2020 third grade
51 teacher in determining grade classification.

- 1 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 115C-218.85(b), charter schools shall
2 have authority to determine the appropriate 2020-2021 school year grade level
3 for third grade students in the same manner that grade level classification is
4 determined for other grade levels.

5 **SECTION 5.7.(b)** Parental Notice and Interventions. – Consistent with
6 G.S. 115C-83.9(a), parents or guardians shall receive notice that a first, second, or third grade
7 student demonstrated difficulty with reading development or was not reading at grade level
8 during the 2019-2020 school year based on assessments completed on or before March 13, 2020.
9 The provisions of G.S. 115C-83.9(d) shall apply to this notice.

10 For third grade students retained for the 2019-2020 school year based on data from
11 the 2018-2019 school year, the requirements of G.S. 115C-83.9(c) shall not apply during the
12 school closure period, beginning March 16, 2020.

13 For third grade students retained for the 2020-2021 school year due to reading
14 deficiencies, the provisions of G.S. 115C-83.8(b) through (e) and G.S. 115C-83.9 shall apply in
15 the same manner they would have had the student been retained pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.7(a),
16 except that notification regarding the exemptions described in G.S. 115C-83.7(b) shall not apply.

17 **SECTION 5.7.(c)** Reading Camps. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-83.6(a),
18 115C-83.8(a), and 115C-83.11, and any other provision of law to the contrary, local school
19 administrative units are not required to provide reading camps corresponding to the 2019-2020
20 school year.

21 **SECTION 5.7.(d)** Fourth Grade Reading Assessment. – No later than the tenth day
22 that school buildings are open to students for the 2020-2021 school year, public school units shall
23 administer to all fourth grade students the end-of-year diagnostic assessment otherwise required
24 for third grade students pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(a) and State Board policy. The results of
25 the assessment shall be used to identify reading deficiencies and inform instruction and
26 remediation needs in order to ensure that all students achieve proficiency at the earliest date
27 possible.

28 **SECTION 5.7.(e)** Reporting Requirements. – For the 2020-2021 school year, the
29 following applies:

- 30 (1) Accountability reporting described in G.S. 115C-83.10 shall not be required
31 based on data from the 2019-2020 school year, except that by September 1,
32 2020, local boards of education shall report to the State Board the following:
33 a. The number and percentage of first grade students on track and not on
34 track to meet year-end expectations based on assessments completed
35 on or before March 13, 2020.
36 b. The number and percentage of second grade students on track and not
37 on track to meet year-end expectations based on assessments
38 completed on or before March 13, 2020.
39 c. The number and percentage of third grade students on track and not on
40 track to meet year-end expectations based on assessments completed
41 on or before March 13, 2020.
42 d. The number and percentage of third grade students retained pursuant
43 to subsection (a) of this section for reading deficiencies.
- 44 (2) Reporting requirements described in G.S. 115C-218.85(b)(4) shall not be
45 required based on data from the 2019-2020 school year, except that by
46 September 1, 2020, charter schools and other public school units subject to
47 charter school statutory requirements shall report to the State Board the
48 following:
49 a. The number and percentage of third grade students on track and not on
50 track to meet year-end expectations based on assessments completed
51 on or before March 13, 2020.

- 1 b. The number and percentage of third grade students retained pursuant
2 to subsection (a) of this section for reading deficiencies.
- 3 (3) The State Board shall compile the information described in this subsection
4 and shall submit a State-level summary of each component by local school
5 administrative unit and charter school to the Joint Legislative Education
6 Oversight Committee by October 15, 2020.

7 8 **MODIFICATIONS FOR PLACEMENT IN ADVANCED COURSES IN** 9 **MATHEMATICS**

10 **SECTION 5.8.** The provisions of G.S. 115C-81.36(a1) and (b) shall not apply for
11 the 2020-2021 school year based on data from the 2019-2020 school year. Math placement for
12 the 2020-2021 school year may be determined consistent with local policies, in consultation with
13 a student's 2019-2020 school year math teacher. For the purposes of G.S. 115C-81.36(c), the
14 Department of Public Instruction shall submit its December 15, 2020, report to the Joint
15 Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the number and demographics of students who
16 were (i) enrolled in advanced mathematics courses, including high school level mathematics
17 courses in eighth grade, or (ii) given other advanced learning opportunities for the 2020-2021
18 school year. The report shall include information on the type and format of advanced
19 mathematics courses or advanced learning opportunities provided and shall also include any
20 feedback provided by local boards of education on the implementation of G.S. 115C-81.36.

21 22 **WAIVER OF THE CPR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

23 **SECTION 5.9.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-12(9d)a., for the 2019-2020 school year,
24 any student in grade 12 who has not satisfied the requirement for completion of instruction in
25 cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall be eligible to graduate if both of the following apply:

- 26 (1) Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation cannot be completed due to the
27 COVID-19 emergency.
- 28 (2) The student is eligible to graduate in all respects other than the statutory
29 requirement described in this section, as determined by the principal of the
30 school to which the student is assigned.

31 32 **SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**

33 **SECTION 5.10.(a)** Instructional Time Requirements. – A public school unit that
34 provides remote instruction as required by this subsection shall be deemed to have satisfied the
35 minimum days and hours required by G.S. 115C-75.8(d)(9), 115C-84.2(a)(1), 115C-150.12,
36 115C-218.85(a)(1), 115C-238.53(d), 115C-238.66(1)d., 116-239.8(b)(2)c., and Section 6(e) of
37 S.L. 2018-32 for the 2019-2020 school year. For the purposes of this subsection for the
38 2019-2020 school year, remote instruction is defined as learning that takes place outside of the
39 traditional school setting using various media and formats, including, but not limited to, video
40 conference, telephone conference, print material, online material, or learning management
41 systems. Each public school unit shall provide remote instruction for the remainder of its
42 scheduled 2019-2020 school year.

43 **SECTION 5.10.(b)** Student Attendance Enforcement. – For the 2019-2020 school
44 year, the requirements of G.S. 115C-378(e) through (g) shall not apply during the school closure
45 period.

46 47 **SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

48 **SECTION 5.11.(a)** Remote Instruction Plans. – The governing body of each public
49 school unit shall develop a Remote Instruction Plan (Plan) for the 2020-2021 school year and
50 shall submit its Plan to the State Board no later than June 30, 2020. The purpose of the Plan is to
51 provide a detailed framework for delivering quality remote instruction to all students within the

1 public school unit during the 2020-2021 school year, as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
2 In describing how the public school unit will implement remote instruction, the Plan shall address
3 all of the following:

- 4 (1) Consulting with teachers, administrators and instructional support staff,
5 parents, students, community partners, and other stakeholders in developing
6 the Plan and effectively communicating the Plan to all involved parties.
- 7 (2) Training for teachers and staff on effective use of the remote instruction
8 resources utilized by the public school unit and the process for student
9 submission of completed work. The Plan shall identify any learning
10 management system, online instructional resource, or offline instructional
11 resource that will be made available to all students in a grade-level across the
12 public school unit.
- 13 (3) Defining and clearly communicating staff roles and expectations for remote
14 instruction days, including teacher workdays, teacher accessibility, and
15 noncertified staff workdays and responsibilities. The Plan may include
16 variances for staff expectations when remote instruction days are also used as
17 teacher workdays.
- 18 (4) Surveying student and teacher home connectivity and providing for remote
19 instruction that is appropriate for teachers and students with limited
20 connectivity capability, including the opportunity for students to download
21 remote learning materials in advance when practicable.
- 22 (5) Engaging with community partners on services that parents and students can
23 utilize on remote instruction days, including community partners willing to
24 provide free broadband access or connectivity for remote instruction and
25 community partners with child care options, and communicating remote
26 instruction schedules with those partners.
- 27 (6) Developing effective design and delivery of remote instruction lessons within
28 professional learning communities.
- 29 (7) Teaching and practice opportunities for students on accessing and using
30 remote instruction platforms and methods, including how to locate, complete,
31 and submit assignments. The Plan shall include regular opportunities for
32 students to use the platforms and methods during non-remote instruction days
33 to ensure student success during remote instruction.
- 34 (8) Communicating learning targets to students on each remote instruction day
35 and ensuring that lesson design provides instructional time, practice, and
36 application components to demonstrate learning. The Plan shall include a
37 process for monitoring the quality of remote instruction materials.
- 38 (9) Ensuring that remote instructional time, practice, and application components
39 produce learning growth that is commensurate with what would have taken
40 place had the remote instruction day been a non-remote instruction day. The
41 Plan shall include work measurement guidelines appropriate to each grade
42 level, including deadlines for submission of assignments and methods to
43 assess and grade learning during remote instruction.
- 44 (10) Ensuring that students with disabilities have equal access to the remote
45 instruction provided by their public school units and that remote instruction is
46 provided in a manner consistent with each student's individualized education
47 program (IEP) or 504 plan. Remote learning day supports shall be considered
48 and included in the development or modification of all IEPs or 504 plans, as
49 appropriate for the student.
- 50 (11) Tracking and reporting attendance on remote instruction days, including
51 protocols for determining attendance, the reporting system to be used, and

1 how attendance procedures will be communicated to parents before remote
2 instruction begins.

3 (12) Providing online and offline contact options for students to communicate with
4 teachers or staff for remote instruction days that are not used as teacher
5 workdays.

6 (13) Providing technology support for students experiencing technical difficulties
7 on remote instruction days.

8 **SECTION 5.11.(b)** School Calendar. – Except as otherwise provided in this
9 subsection, the requirements of G.S. 115C-84.2, including the requirement that a school calendar
10 consist of 215 days, apply to the 2020-2021 school calendar for local school administrative units.
11 The provisions of this subsection supersede any school calendar adopted by a public school unit
12 prior to the enactment of this act. For the 2020-2021 school year only, the following applies to
13 the school calendar for public school units:

14 (1) Notwithstanding any provisions of G.S. 115C-75.8(d)(9), 115C-84.2(a)(1),
15 115C-150.12, 115C-218.85(a)(1), 115C-238.53(d), 115C-238.66(1)d.,
16 116-239.8(b)(2)c., and Section 6(e) of S.L. 2018-32 to the contrary, each
17 public school unit shall adopt a calendar that includes 190 days of instruction
18 as follows:

- 19 a. One hundred eighty-five (185) days or 1,025 hours of instruction.
20 b. An additional five instructional days that shall be satisfied only by five
21 individually separate and distinct full instructional days and not by an
22 accumulation of instructional hours.
23 c. Of the 190 days of instruction, five remote instruction days in
24 accordance with the Plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
25 section. Each of the five remote instruction days may be scheduled in
26 the discretion of the public school unit, except as provided in
27 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

28 (2) Notwithstanding any provisions of G.S. 115C-84.2(d) to the contrary, each
29 local school administrative unit shall adopt a school calendar that includes the
30 following:

- 31 a. An opening date for students of August 17, 2020.
32 b. A closing date for students no later than June 11, 2020.
33 c. No remote instruction day shall be scheduled prior to August 24, 2020.
34 d. Remote instruction days may be scheduled for use as teacher
35 workdays, including as teacher workdays on which teachers may take
36 accumulated vacation leave, provided that remote instruction material
37 is prepared and provided for students to use during the remote
38 instruction days. Local school administrative units may, in their
39 discretion, schedule remote instruction days as teacher workdays to
40 facilitate completion of first semester course exams prior to a winter
41 holiday period.
42 e. A local school administrative unit granted a good cause waiver for the
43 2020-2021 school year shall not have an opening date for students
44 earlier than August 17, 2020, but may use up to an additional five
45 remote instruction days, in accordance with the requirements of this
46 subsection for remote instruction days, solely as make-up days for
47 days on which schools have been closed due to inclement weather or
48 other emergency situations.

49 (3) If, during the 2020-2021 school year, a state of emergency or disaster is
50 declared under Chapter 166A of the General Statutes ordering school closure
51 for more than five days, a public school unit providing remote instruction in

1 accordance with the Plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
2 may use additional remote instruction days as necessary to satisfy
3 instructional time requirements.

4 **SECTION 5.11.(c) Reporting Requirement.** – No later than September 15, 2020, the
5 State Board shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the
6 implementation of subsection (a) of this section. The State Board shall submit with its report a
7 copy of each Remote Instruction Plan submitted, and the report shall provide a statewide
8 summary that includes the following:

- 9 (1) All online remote instruction resources used by public school units, listed by
10 public school unit.
- 11 (2) All offline remote instruction resources used by public school units, listed by
12 public school unit.
- 13 (3) A list of any public school unit using only offline remote instruction resources.
- 14 (4) The number and percentage of public school units that did and did not provide
15 plans addressing every item required by subsection (a) of this section.
- 16 (5) Strengths, challenges, and trends noted by the State Board in its review of how
17 public school units implement remote instruction.
- 18 (6) Any other data deemed by the State Board to be useful to the Joint Legislative
19 Education Oversight Committee in evaluating the delivery of statewide
20 remote instruction.

21 **MODIFICATION FOR THE PRINCIPAL RECRUITMENT SUPPLEMENT**

22 **SECTION 5.12.(a)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-285.1, as enacted by S.L. 2019-247,
23 for the 2020-2021 school year, a school identified as an eligible school in the 2019-2020 school
24 year pursuant to G.S. 115C-285.1(a)(2) shall continue to be an eligible school in the 2020-2021
25 school year.

26 **SECTION 5.12.(b)** G.S. 115C-285.1(e), as enacted by S.L. 2019-247, reads as
27 rewritten:

28 "(e) Additional Funds. – In the event an eligible employer is unable to award funds for the
29 salary supplement because of resignation, dismissal, reduction in force, death, retirement, or
30 failure to execute a contract with a qualifying principal, the Department shall award the funds,
31 as soon as is practicable, to another eligible employer identified in subdivision ~~(a)(2)~~-(a)(1) of
32 this section."
33

34 **WAIVER OF THE NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR TEACHER** 35 **PERFORMANCE DATA**

36 **SECTION 5.13.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-333.2, for the 2020-2021 school year,
37 principals are not required to notify teachers that Education Value-Added Assessment System
38 (EVAAS) data has been updated to reflect teacher performance from the 2019-2020 school year.
39

40 **WAIVER OF THE TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

41 **SECTION 5.14.(a)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-299.5(d), for the 2020-2021 school
42 year, local school administrative units are not required to provide teacher effectiveness data from
43 the 2019-2020 school year to the State Board, and the State Board is not required to include any
44 disaggregated data on teacher effectiveness from the 2019-2020 school year in its December 15,
45 2020, report on the state of the teaching profession in North Carolina.

46 **SECTION 5.14.(b)** G.S. 115C-299.5(d) reads as rewritten:

47 "(d) Teacher Effectiveness. – The annual teacher transition report by the State Board of
48 Education shall disaggregate the data included in subsection (c) of this section by teacher
49 effectiveness status at a statewide level. The report shall not disaggregate data on teacher
50 effectiveness status at a local school administrative unit level. Notwithstanding Article 21A of
51

1 this Chapter, local school administrative units shall provide to the State Board of Education, for
2 the purposes of this report, any North Carolina Educator Evaluation System (NCEES)
3 effectiveness status assigned to teachers who left employment. The State Board of Education
4 shall not report disaggregated data that reveals confidential information in a teacher's personnel
5 file, as defined by Article 21A of this Chapter, such as making the effectiveness status personally
6 identifiable to an individual teacher."
7

8 **MODIFICATION OF TEACHER EVALUATION AND OBSERVATION** 9 **REQUIREMENTS**

10 **SECTION 5.15.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-333(a) and G.S. 115C-333.1(a), for the
11 2019-2020 school year, annual teacher evaluations required pursuant to G.S. 115C-333(a) and
12 G.S. 115C-333.1(a) shall be based on (i) observations completed in the 2019-2020 school year
13 prior to the school closure period and (ii) other artifacts and evidence from the 2019-2020 school
14 year. Schools are not required to complete any observations required in the 2019-2020 school
15 year pursuant to G.S. 115C-333(a) and G.S. 115C-333.1(a) that were not completed prior to the
16 school closure period.
17

18 **WAIVER OF STANDARDIZED TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR NONPUBLIC** 19 **SCHOOLS**

20 **SECTION 5.16.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-549, 115C-550, 115C-557, 115C-558,
21 and 115C-564, nonpublic schools, as defined in G.S. 115C-591(4), are not required to do either
22 of the following:

- 23 (1) Administer nationally standardized tests or other nationally standardized
24 equivalent measurements for the 2019-2020 school year.
- 25 (2) Make, maintain, or make available records of test results received by their
26 students in the 2019-2020 school year.
27

28 **WAIVER OF ATTENDANCE AND CALENDAR REQUIREMENTS FOR NONPUBLIC** 29 **SCHOOLS**

30 **SECTION 5.17.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-378, 115C-548, 115C-556, and
31 115C-564, nonpublic schools, as defined in G.S. 115C-591(4), are not required to do either of
32 the following:

- 33 (1) Make, maintain, and render attendance records of children of compulsory
34 school age during the school closure period.
- 35 (2) For the 2019-2020 school year, operate on a regular schedule at least nine
36 calendar months of the year.
37

38 **WAIVER OF STANDARDIZED TESTING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR** 39 **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY** 40 **SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS**

41 **SECTION 5.18.(a)** For purposes of this section, the definitions from
42 G.S. 115C-562.1 shall apply.

43 **SECTION 5.18.(b)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-562.5, for the 2019-2020 school
44 year, a nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants is not required
45 to do any of the following:

- 46 (1) Provide to the parent or guardian of an eligible student, whose tuition and fees
47 are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant, the student's scores on
48 standardized achievement tests.
- 49 (2) Administer a nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized
50 equivalent measurement to any eligible students whose tuition and fees are
51 paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant in grades three and higher.

- 1 (3) Submit standardized test performance data from the 2019-2020 school year to
2 the Authority.
- 3 (4) If the nonpublic school enrolls more than 25 students whose tuition and fees
4 are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant, either of the following:
 - 5 a. Report to the Authority on the aggregate standardized test performance
6 of eligible students.
 - 7 b. Provide standardized test performance data from the 2019-2020 school
8 year to an independent research organization.

10 **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM LATE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

11 **SECTION 5.19.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-562.8, from the funds carried forward
12 at the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.8 that were unexpended as a
13 result of the closure of nonpublic schools due to the COVID-19 emergency, the Authority may
14 remit a scholarship grant awarded to a student for the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school
15 year to a nonpublic school on or before October 1, 2020.

16 **EXTENSION OF K-12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM REPORT DATES**

17 **SECTION 5.20.(a)** Opportunity Scholarship Grant Program. – Notwithstanding
18 G.S. 115C-562.7, the Authority shall submit by November 15, 2020, its annual report due by
19 October 15 each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the Opportunity
20 Scholarship Grant Program.

21 **SECTION 5.20.(b)** Disabilities Grant Program. – Notwithstanding
22 G.S. 115C-112.8, the Authority shall submit by November 15, 2020, its annual report due by
23 October 15 each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the Special
24 Education Scholarships for Children with Disabilities Program.

25 **MODIFICATIONS FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

26 **SECTION 5.21.(a)** Minimum Admission Requirements for EPPs. –
27 Notwithstanding the minimum admission requirements required by G.S. 115C-269.15, for the
28 2020-2021 academic year only, a recognized EPP shall be permitted to admit students as follows:

- 29 (1) An individual student shall not be required to meet any of the criteria set forth
30 in G.S. 115C-269.15(a).
- 31 (2) An individual student shall not be required to have earned a grade point
32 average of at least 2.7 under G.S. 115C-269.15(c). However, the EPP shall not
33 permit a student to commence with a clinical practice as required by
34 G.S. 115C-269.25(d) until the student has earned a grade point average of at
35 least 2.7.
- 36 (3) The minimum cohort grade point average for the entering cohort to an EPP
37 for the 2020-2021 academic year shall not be required to be at least 3.0 under
38 G.S. 115C-269.15(d).

39 **SECTION 5.21.(b)** Clinical Internships. – Notwithstanding
40 G.S. 115C-269.25(d)(1), a student who is enrolled in a recognized EPP pursuant to
41 G.S. 115C-269.5 may have the clinical internship requirement set forth in
42 G.S. 115C-269.25(d)(1) deemed completed for the 2019-2020 academic year under the following
43 conditions:

- 44 (1) The student has completed as much time in a clinical internship as practicable
45 prior to March 10, 2020.
 - 46 (2) The student would be unable to complete the EPP by August 15, 2020, unless
47 the clinical internship is deemed completed pursuant to this section.
 - 48 (3) The student has been engaged in remote instruction as practicable while the
49 school is closed during the school closure period.
- 50
51

- 1 (4) The student has otherwise met the descriptors identified on the certification of
2 teacher capacity utilized by the EPP and the elementary or secondary school
3 partner.

4 **SECTION 5.21.(c)** Pedagogy Assessments. – Notwithstanding
5 G.S. 115C-269.25(g), for individuals who have their clinical internship deemed completed
6 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the following shall apply:

- 7 (1) The State Board shall not require EPPs to require these individuals for the
8 2019-2020 academic year to complete a nationally normed and valid
9 pedagogy assessment to determine clinical practice performance.
10 (2) The State Board shall not require these individuals for the 2019-2020
11 academic year to complete the pedagogy assessment as a condition of EPP
12 completion.
13 (3) These individuals shall attempt the pedagogy assessment by the end of their
14 first year of licensure and shall pass the assessment by the end of their third
15 year of licensure.

16 **SECTION 5.21.(d)** Accountability. – Due to the lack of student assessment data and
17 the school closure period, notwithstanding the requirements of G.S. 115C-269.35(a), EPPs shall
18 only be required to submit information that is practicably available in the annual report to the
19 State Board required under G.S. 115C-269.35(b) for the 2019-2020 academic year.

20 **SECTION 5.21.(e)** Sanctions. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-269.45(c), the State
21 Board shall not consider data that was not practicably available related to the 2019-2020 school
22 year when assigning sanctions for an EPP under G.S. 115C-269.45(c).

23 **SECTION 5.21.(f)** EPP Report Cards. – Due to limited available information and
24 the waiver of the requirement to submit certain information to the State Board under subsection
25 (c) of this section, notwithstanding G.S. 115C-269.50, the State Board shall create and submit
26 annual report cards for EPPs as required by G.S. 115C-269.50 by December 15, 2020, to the
27 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (Committee) but shall not make the annual
28 report cards created pursuant to this section available to the public through the State Board's Web
29 site for the 2019-2020 academic year. The State Board shall also include in its report to the
30 Committee aggregated information on the following:

- 31 (1) The number and overall percentage of students who were admitted to an EPP
32 with a GPA that was less than 2.7 as permitted by subdivision (2) of subsection
33 (a) of this section.
34 (2) The number and overall percentage of students who had their clinical
35 internships deemed completed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.
36

37 **MODIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

38 **SECTION 5.22.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-284(c2), a school administrator
39 candidate who is enrolled in a school administrator preparation program meeting the approval
40 standards established by the State Board pursuant to G.S. 115C-284 may have certain
41 requirements of G.S. 115C-284(c2) deemed completed for the 2019-2020 academic year as
42 follows:

- 43 (1) The requirement that a candidate shall complete a year-long internship under
44 G.S. 115C-284(c2)(7) shall be deemed completed under the following
45 conditions:
46 a. The candidate has completed as much time in the year-long internship
47 as practicable prior to March 10, 2020.
48 b. The candidate would be unable to complete the program by August
49 15, 2020, unless the internship is deemed completed pursuant to this
50 section.

- 1 c. The candidate has been engaged in administrative duties as practicable
2 while the school is closed during the school closure period.
3 d. The candidate has otherwise met the competencies identified in the
4 certification of capacity utilized by the school administrator
5 preparation program.

- 6 (2) The candidate shall complete a portfolio for emerging leaders to demonstrate
7 the application of his or her training to actual school needs and training to the
8 extent practicable prior to completion of the school administrator preparation
9 program.
10

11 MODIFICATIONS FOR THE TRANSFORMING PRINCIPAL PREPARATION 12 GRANT PROGRAM

13 **SECTION 5.23.(a)** Notwithstanding G.S. 116-209.72(a)(2)e., a school leader
14 candidate who is enrolled in a school leader preparation program receiving a grant pursuant to
15 Part 4 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes shall have the clinical practice requirement under
16 G.S. 116-209.72(a)(2)e. deemed completed for the 2019-2020 academic year under the following
17 conditions:

- 18 (1) The candidate has completed as much time in the clinical practice as
19 practicable prior to March 10, 2020.
20 (2) The candidate has been engaged in school leader duties as practicable while
21 the school is closed during the school closure period.

22 **SECTION 5.23.(b)** Notwithstanding G.S. 116-209.73(c)(1)a., the Authority shall
23 not retrieve grant funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year from a grant recipient based solely on a
24 recipient's failure to require school leader candidates to complete a full-time paid clinical practice
25 of at least five months and 750 hours in duration as required by G.S. 116-209.72(a)(2)e. as part
26 of the program during the 2019-2020 academic year.
27

28 EXTENSIONS FOR TEACHER LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

29 **SECTION 5.24.(a)** Extension for Licensure Requirements. – Notwithstanding
30 G.S. 115C-270.15, G.S. 115C-270.20, and Section 1.2 of S.L. 2019-71, as amended by Section
31 8(d) of S.L. 2019-212, the State Board shall allow applicants for educator licensure additional
32 time to meet the requirements under G.S. 115C-270.15 and G.S. 115C-270.20 as follows:

- 33 (1) An individual who is in the first year of licensure, including an initial
34 professional licensure (IPL), lateral entry license, or residency license (RL),
35 as of March 10, 2020, who has not taken the examination required by the State
36 Board may take the examination during the individual's second year of
37 licensure.
38 (2) An applicant for a continuing professional license (CPL) whose lateral entry
39 license expires June 30, 2020, including a teacher granted an extension
40 pursuant to Section 1.2 of S.L. 2019-71, as amended by Section 8(d) of S.L.
41 2019-212, who has not met the examination and coursework requirements
42 established by the State Board as of March 10, 2020, shall be provided an
43 extension until June 30, 2021.
44 (3) An applicant for a CPL whose IPL expires June 30, 2020, who has not met the
45 examination requirement established by the State Board as of March 10, 2020,
46 shall be provided an extension until June 30, 2021.
47 (4) An applicant for a CPL who is an elementary education (K-6) or special
48 education general curriculum teacher with an IPL or RL who was granted an
49 extension until June 30, 2020, pursuant to Section 1.2 of S.L. 2019-71, as
50 amended by Section 8(d) of S.L. 2019-212, who has not met the examination

1 requirement established by the State Board as of March 10, 2020, shall be
2 provided an extension until June 30, 2021.

3 **SECTION 5.24.(b)** Extension for CEU Requirement. – Notwithstanding
4 G.S. 115C-270.30(b), any teacher who is required to have at least eight continuing education
5 credits for continuing licensure by June 30, 2020, shall have until June 30, 2021, to meet the
6 requirements under G.S. 115C-270.30(b).

7
8 **EXTENSIONS FOR LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR OTHER SCHOOL**
9 **PERSONNEL**

10 **SECTION 5.25.(a)** Extension for Examination Requirement. – Notwithstanding
11 G.S. 115C-284 and G.S. 115C-315(d), the State Board shall allow applicants for licensure
12 additional time to meet the examination requirements as follows:

- 13 (1) Pursuant to G.S. 115C-284, an individual applying for a school administrator
14 license who has not met the examination requirements established by the State
15 Board as of March 10, 2020, shall be permitted to meet the examination
16 requirements in the first year of licensure.
17 (2) Pursuant to G.S. 115C-315(d), an individual applying for licensure for a
18 professional position in a public elementary or secondary school who has not
19 met the examination requirements established by the State Board as of March
20 10, 2020, shall be permitted to meet the examinations requirement in the first
21 year of licensure.

22 **SECTION 5.25.(b)** Extension for CEU Requirement. – Notwithstanding
23 G.S. 115C-284(c3), a school administrator who is required to meet continuing education credits
24 in high-quality, integrated digital teaching and learning for licensure renewal by June 30, 2020,
25 shall have until June 30, 2021, to meet the requirements under G.S. 115C-284(c3).

26
27 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION WAIVER FOR STUDENTS IN**
28 **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS**

29 **SECTION 5.26.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-5(b)(16), if a student is unable to
30 continue participation in a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program due to the COVID-19
31 emergency, a student may continue to be eligible for a tuition waiver for community college
32 courses in the student's documented plan of study related to a job specific occupational or
33 technical skill until December 31, 2020.

34
35 **WAIVER OF INTEREST CHARGES ON UNC STUDENT DEBT**

36 **SECTION 5.27.** Notwithstanding G.S. 147-86.23, a constituent institution of The
37 University of North Carolina shall not accrue or charge any interest to a past-due account
38 receivable held by a student between March 13, 2020, and September 15, 2020.

39
40 **EXTENSION OF UNC REPORT DATES**

41 **SECTION 5.28.(a)** Notwithstanding G.S. 116-11(12d), 116-74.21, and
42 143-613(b1), the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall have an
43 additional 60 days to submit the following reports to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
44 Committee:

- 45 (1) The annual report due by April 15 each year on teacher education efforts at
46 The University of North Carolina.
47 (2) The annual report due by April 15 each year on the supply and demand of
48 school administrators to determine the number of school administrators to be
49 trained in school administrator training programs within the constituent
50 institutions of The University of North Carolina in each year of the fiscal
51 biennium.

- 1 (3) The biennial report due by May 15 every two years on the goals for
2 State-operated health professional schools that offer training programs for
3 licensure or certification of physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurse
4 midwives for increasing the percentage of the graduates of those programs
5 who enter clinical programs and careers in primary care.

6 **SECTION 5.28.(b)** Notwithstanding Section 9.7(c) of S.L. 2008-107, as amended
7 by Section 9.3(c) of S.L. 2010-31, the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina
8 shall submit by June 15, 2020, its annual report on the UNC-NCCCS 2+2 E-Learning Initiative
9 due by April 15 each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the State
10 Board of Education, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research
11 Division.

12 **SECTION 5.28.(c)** Notwithstanding Section 9.3(c) of S.L. 2005-276, as amended
13 by Section 9.3(d) of S.L. 2010-31, The University of North Carolina System Office shall submit
14 by June 15, 2020, its annual report on the UNC-NCCCS Joint Initiative for Teacher Education
15 and Recruitment due by April 15 each year to the State Board of Education, the Board of
16 Governors of The University of North Carolina, the State Board of Community Colleges, the
17 Education Cabinet, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, and the Office of State
18 Budget and Management.

19 **FUNDS FOR SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS**

20 **SECTION 5.29.(a)** The funds allocated in subdivision (19) of Section 3.3 of this act
21 shall be allotted to local school administrative units, charter schools, and the Innovative School
22 District to provide a supplemental summer learning program for students whose learning has
23 been negatively affected by the impacts of COVID-19, in accordance with the following:

- 24 (1) The summer learning program shall include the following:
- 25 a. Reading interventions for students who were in kindergarten through
26 grade three during the 2019-2020 school year who were not on track
27 to meet 2019-2020 year-end expectations based on diagnostic
28 assessments completed prior to March 16, 2020.
 - 29 b. Reading interventions for students who were in grade four during the
30 2019-2020 school year who were not on track to meet 2019-2020
31 year-end expectations as identified by their 2019-2020 school year
32 reading teachers.
 - 33 c. Math interventions for students who were in kindergarten through
34 grade four during the 2019-2020 school year who were not on track to
35 meet 2019-2020 year-end expectations as identified by their
36 2019-2020 school year math teachers.
- 37 (2) Of the funds appropriated by this section for summer reading programs, at
38 least thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) shall be used to provide reading
39 interventions for students who were in grades two and three during the
40 2019-2020 school year. Of these funds, any unexpended funds at the
41 conclusion of the summer learning program shall be used prior to December
42 30, 2020, to provide supplemental literacy support for students in grade four
43 during the 2020-2021 school year who are not on track to meet 2020-2021
44 year-end expectations, as identified by their 2020-2021 school year reading
45 teachers.
- 46 (3) Any unexpended funds for (i) reading interventions for students in
47 kindergarten, grade one, or grade four during the 2019-2020 school year and
48 (ii) math interventions for students in kindergarten through grade four during
49 the 2019-2020 school year shall be used prior to December 30, 2020, to
50 provide supplemental literacy or math support, as appropriate, to students in
51

1 grades one through five during the 2020-2021 school year who are not on track
2 to meet 2020-2021 year-end expectations as identified by their respective
3 2020-2021 school year reading or math teachers.

- 4 (4) Funds provided for summer learning programs may be used to deliver
5 interventions and instruction to participating students using methods such as
6 digital resources, printed materials, literacy coaches, and face-to-face
7 instruction.

8 **SECTION 5.29.(b)** The governing body of a public school unit receiving funds
9 under this section shall consult with 2019-2020 school year teachers of kindergarten through
10 fourth grade students to develop summer learning program plans that deliver targeted instruction
11 to students participating in the summer learning program. Each public school unit's plan shall
12 comply with the requirements of any executive order in effect at the time of the summer learning
13 program, including requirements on the use of public school buildings, and shall comply with
14 social distancing and other public health guidelines provided by the Department of Health and
15 Human Services. No later than May 31, 2020, local school administrative units and the
16 Innovative School District shall submit their summer learning program plans to the Department
17 of Public Instruction. The Department shall review each plan submitted and provide feedback as
18 necessary to ensure that each summer learning program provides instruction and interventions as
19 required by this section. The Department shall provide feedback to local school administrative
20 units no later than June 26, 2020.

21 **SECTION 5.29.(c)** Summer learning programs shall not be included in scheduled
22 instructional time for the 2020-2021 school year calendar, but shall provide a supplement to that
23 instruction in order to better prepare students for academic success during the 2020-2021 school
24 year, despite the impacts of COVID-19. Each public school unit receiving funds under this
25 section is encouraged to identify or prepare resources and strategies that parents or guardians can
26 provide at home for students who qualify for a summer learning program and who (i) do not
27 attend or (ii) attend and would like additional material. Parents or guardians of students who
28 qualify for summer learning programs shall make the final decision regarding student attendance
29 at summer learning programs.

30 **SECTION 5.29.(d)** No later than February 15, 2021, the State Board of Education
31 shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the implementation of this section
32 and the use of State funds for summer learning programs.
33

34 **PART VI. OTHER POLICY REVISIONS**

35 **REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY**

36 **SECTION 6.1.(a)** For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- 37 (1) "Coronavirus" has the same meaning as defined in section 506 of the
38 Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act,
39 2020.
40 (2) "Coronavirus emergency" means the period from March 10, 2020, through the
41 date the Governor signs an executive order rescinding Executive Order No.
42 116, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and
43 Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19.
44 (3) "State agency" means an agency or an officer in the executive branch of the
45 government of this State and includes the Council of State, the Governor's
46 Office, a board, a commission, a department, a division, a council, and any
47 other unit of government in the executive branch. "State agency" does not
48 include the North Carolina Department of Justice, the State Board of
49 Education, or the State Board of Elections.
50

1 **SECTION 6.1.(b)** Each State agency shall review its rules, policies, procedures,
2 enforcement actions, and any other type of agency requirement or action that affects the
3 economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the State and determine if, due to the
4 impacts of the coronavirus, a waiver, delay, or modification of the agency's requirements or
5 actions would be in the public interest, including the public health, safety, and welfare and the
6 economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the State. If the State agency determines
7 that a waiver, delay, or modification of the agency's requirements or actions would be in the
8 public interest, the agency shall adopt emergency rules or take other necessary actions to
9 implement these waivers, delays, and modifications as expeditiously as possible.

10 **SECTION 6.1.(c)** Notwithstanding any other provision of State law, if a State
11 agency determines that, due to the impacts of the coronavirus, it is in the public interest, including
12 the public health, safety, and welfare and the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses
13 of the State, the agency shall:

- 14 (1) Delay the collection of, or modify the method of collection of, any fees, fines,
15 or late payments assessed by the agency under its statutes, including the
16 accrual of interest associated with any fees, fines, or late payments.
- 17 (2) Delay the renewal dates of permits, licenses, and other similar certifications,
18 registrations, and authorizations issued by the agency pursuant to its statutes.
- 19 (3) Delay or modify any educational or examination requirements implemented
20 by the agency pursuant to its statutes.

21 **SECTION 6.1.(d)** No later than October 1, 2020, each State agency shall report to
22 the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative
23 Commission on Governmental Operations, and the Office of State Budget and Management on
24 its specific efforts to exercise regulatory flexibility under this section. If a State agency chooses
25 not to exercise regulatory flexibility under this section, the report shall include an explanation
26 from the agency as to how it determined that its exercise of regulatory flexibility was not in the
27 public interest, including the public health, safety, and welfare and the economic well-being of
28 the citizens and businesses of the State, during the coronavirus emergency.

29 **SECTION 6.1.(e)** State agencies shall exercise the authority granted pursuant to this
30 section to the maximum extent practicable in order to protect the economic well-being of the
31 citizens and businesses of the State, while also continuing to protect public health, safety, and
32 welfare.

33 **SECTION 6.1.(f)** State agencies may adopt emergency rules for the implementation
34 of this section in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1A. Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-21.1A(a), an
35 agency shall not commence the adoption of temporary rules pursuant to this section.
36 Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-21.1A(d)(4), an emergency rule adopted pursuant to this section
37 shall remain in effect during the pendency of the coronavirus emergency, unless the State agency
38 specifies an earlier expiration date.

39 **SECTION 6.1.(g)** This section shall be construed liberally in order to allow State
40 agencies to protect the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the State during the
41 Coronavirus emergency.

42 **SECTION 6.1.(h)** This section is effective March 10, 2020, and expires on the earlier
43 of the date the Governor signs an executive order rescinding Executive Order No. 116,
44 Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent
45 the Spread of COVID-19, or September 1, 2020.

46 **DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES/EXTEND DEADLINES**

47 **SECTION 6.2.(a)** Definition. – For purposes of this section, "credential" means any
48 of the following issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles:

- 49 (1) Drivers license.
- 50 (2) Learner's permit.
- 51

- 1 (3) Commercial drivers license.
- 2 (4) Temporary driving certificate.
- 3 (5) Special identification card.
- 4 (6) Handicapped placard.
- 5 (7) Vehicle registration.
- 6 (8) Temporary vehicle registration.
- 7 (9) Dealer license plate.
- 8 (10) Transporter plate.
- 9 (11) Loaner/Dealer "LD" plate.
- 10 (12) Vehicle inspection authorization.
- 11 (13) Inspection station license.
- 12 (14) Inspection mechanic license.
- 13 (15) Motor vehicle dealer license.
- 14 (16) Sales representative license.
- 15 (17) Manufacturer license.
- 16 (18) Distributor license.
- 17 (19) Driver training school license.

18 **SECTION 6.2.(b)** Extend Validity of Credentials. – Notwithstanding renewal,
19 duration, or expiration provisions of G.S. 20-7, 20-37.6, 20-37.7, 20-50, 20-66, 20-79, 20-79.02,
20 20-79.2, 20-183.4B, 20-183.4D, 20-288, and 20-324, or any other provision of law to the
21 contrary, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall extend for a period of six months the validity of
22 any credential that expires on or after March 1, 2020, and before August 1, 2020. A credential
23 extended under this section shall expire six months from the date it otherwise expires as
24 prescribed by law prior to this section. However, the subsequent expiration of a credential
25 extended under this section shall occur on the date prescribed by law prior to this section without
26 regard to the extension. The Division shall notify individuals affected by an extension granted
27 under this section, including information on new expiration dates and how the extension affects
28 subsequent renewal and expiration dates.

29 **SECTION 6.2.(c)** Waive Penalties. – Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
30 contrary, the Division shall waive any fines, fees, or penalties associated with failing to renew a
31 credential during the period of time the credential is valid by extension under subsection (b) of
32 this section.

33 **SECTION 6.2.(d)** Motor Vehicle Taxes. – Notwithstanding any provision of law to
34 the contrary, due dates for motor vehicle taxes that are tied to registration expiration under Article
35 22A of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes shall be extended to correspond with extended
36 expiration dates under subsection (b) of this section.

37 **SECTION 6.2.(e)** Validity by Extension a Defense. – A person may not be convicted
38 or found responsible for any offense resulting from failure to renew a credential issued by the
39 Division if, when tried for that offense, the person shows that the offense occurred during the
40 period of time the credential is valid by extension under subsection (b) of this section.

41 **SECTION 6.2.(f)** Report. – Within 30 days of the extensions made under subsection
42 (b) of this section, the Division shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Transportation
43 Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division detailing implementation of this section.

44 **SECTION 6.2.(g)** Effective Date. – This section is effective retroactively to March
45 1, 2020, and applies to expirations occurring on or after that date.

46 47 **TEMPORARY FLEXIBILITY FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

48 **SECTION 6.2A.(a)** For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- 49 (1) Quality Improvement Plan Rules. – The rules regulating the quality
50 improvement process for physician assistants and nurse practitioners found in
51 21 NCAC 32S .0213, 21 NCAC 32M .0110 and 21 NCAC 36 .0810.

1 (2) Application Fee Rules. – The portions of rules found in 21 NCAC 32S .0204,
2 21 NCAC 32M .0115, and 21 NCAC 36 .0813 that require the payment of an
3 application fee.

4 (3) Annual Review Rules. – The portions of rules requiring the annual review or
5 renewal of a practice arrangement between a physician and a physician
6 assistant or nurse practitioner found in 21 NCAC 32S .0201, 21 NCAC 32M
7 .0110, and 21 NCAC 36 .0806..

8 **SECTION 6.2A.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
9 neither the North Carolina Medical Board nor the North Carolina Board of Nursing shall enforce
10 any provision of the Quality Improvement rules to the extent they require any of the following:

11 (1) Quality improvement process meetings between a physician and a physician
12 assistant or nurse practitioner, provided that the physician assistant or nurse
13 practitioner was practicing within the scope of his or her license prior to
14 February 1, 2020, and continues to practice within the scope of his or her
15 license while this section is effective.

16 (2) Monthly quality improvement process meetings between a physician and a
17 physician assistant or nurse practitioner during the first six months of the
18 practice arrangement between the physician and the physician assistant or
19 nurse practitioner physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or certified nurse
20 midwife.

21 **SECTION 6.2A.(c)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
22 neither the North Carolina Medical Board nor the North Carolina Board of Nursing shall enforce
23 any provision of the quality Improvement Rules or the Application Fee Rules to the extent they
24 require any individual to fill out an application or pay a fee, provided that individual is providing
25 volunteer healthcare services within the scope of his or her license in response to the COVID-19
26 pandemic state of emergency declared by the Governor of North Carolina on March 10, 2020.

27 **SECTION 6.2A.(d)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
28 neither the North Carolina Medical Board nor the North Carolina Board of Nursing shall enforce
29 any provision of the Annual Review Rules.

30 **SECTION 6.2A.(e)** This section is effective when it becomes law, and expires 60
31 days after all of the following are rescinded or expired: (i) Executive Order No. 116, issued by
32 Governor Roy A. Cooper, (ii) the major disaster declaration by the President of the United States
33 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121.
34 et seq., as amended, for this State on March 25, 2020, and (iii) a declared nationwide public
35 health emergency as a result of the 2019 novel coronavirus declared by the Secretary of Health
36 and Human Services under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act on January 31, 2020.

37
38 **STATE TREASURER AUTHORITY TO DEFER STATE HEALTH PLAN PREMIUM
39 OR DEBT PAYMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

40 **SECTION 6.3.(a)** For the limited time period between March 10, 2020, and the date
41 that Executive Order No. 116, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and
42 Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19, is rescinded or expires, and subject to
43 approval by the Board of Trustees, the State Treasurer may order that members, employing units,
44 or both adversely affected by this state of emergency shall have the option of deferring premium
45 or debt payments that are due to the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State
46 Employees (Plan) during this specified limited time period. The State Treasurer may order the
47 expiration of the option to defer premium or debt payment prior to the end of the limited time
48 period specified under this section but may not extend the option beyond that period.

49 **SECTION 6.3.(b)** Any option to defer premium or debt payments offered under this
50 section shall be made for a period 30 days from the last day the premium or debt payment may
51 have been made under the terms of the Plan, policy, contract, or agreement. Notwithstanding any

1 provision of law to the contrary, this 30-day deferral period may also be applied to any statute,
2 rule, or other policy or contract provision that imposes a time limit on the Plan or on a member
3 to perform any act related to the Plan on or after March 10, 2020, and through the date that
4 Executive Order No. 116, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and
5 Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19, is rescinded or expires. This 30-day
6 deferral period may be extended by the State Treasurer in 30-day increments, subject to approval
7 by the Board of Trustees. A deferral period shall not last beyond 90 days from the date Executive
8 Order No. 116 expires or is rescinded.

9 **SECTION 6.3.(c)** An option to defer premium or debt payments offered under this
10 section may be limited to a specific category of members or employing units, as necessary and
11 as determined by the State Treasurer.

12 **SECTION 6.3.(d)** Nothing in this section shall be construed as to authorize the
13 nonpayment of premiums or debt. All premium payments in arrears shall be paid to the Plan. If
14 premiums in arrears are not paid, coverage shall lapse as of the last day of the month for which
15 premiums were paid in full. The member shall be responsible for all medical expenses incurred
16 since the effective date of the lapse in coverage.

17 **SECTION 6.3.(e)** This section is effective retroactively to March 10, 2020.

18 19 **PROVIDE MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR COVID-19 TESTING TO UNINSURED** 20 **INDIVIDUALS IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING THE NATIONWIDE PUBLIC** 21 **HEALTH EMERGENCY**

22 **SECTION 6.4.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health
23 Benefits (DHB), is authorized to provide the Medicaid coverage described in 42 U.S.C.A. §
24 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XXIII), which covers COVID-19 testing for certain uninsured individuals
25 during the period in which there is a declared nationwide public health emergency as a result of
26 the 2019 novel coronavirus, and for which the federal medical assistance percentage is one
27 hundred percent (100%). DHB is authorized to provide this medical assistance retroactively to
28 the earliest date allowable.

29 30 **DURATION OF TEMPORARY MEDICAID PROVIDER RATE INCREASES**

31 **SECTION 6.4A.** The Medicaid provider rate increases requested in (i) the 1135
32 Medicaid disaster State Plan amendment (SPA) submitted to the Centers for Medicare and
33 Medicaid Services by the Department of Health and Human Services on April 8, 2020, and (ii)
34 any additional provider rate increases requested in subsequent 1135 Medicaid disaster State Plan
35 amendments shall be applicable only until the expiration of the declared nationwide public health
36 emergency as a result of the 2019 novel coronavirus or January 31, 2021, whichever is earlier.

37 38 **PERMIT TELEHEALTH TO CONDUCT SECOND INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT** 39 **EXAMINATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

40 **SECTION 6.5.(a)** The following definitions apply in this section:

- 41 (1) Commitment examiner. – As defined in G.S. 122C-3.
- 42 (2) Telehealth. – The use of two-way real-time interactive audio and video where
43 the respondent and commitment examiner can hear and see each other.
- 44 (3) Qualified professional. – As defined in G.S. 122C-3.

45 **SECTION 6.5.(b)** Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 122C of the General
46 Statutes or any other provision of law to the contrary, the second examination of a respondent
47 required by G.S. 122C-266(a) to determine whether the respondent will be involuntarily
48 committed due to mental illness or required by G.S. 122C-285(a) to determine if the respondent
49 will be involuntarily committed due to substance use disorder may be conducted either in the
50 physical face-to-face presence of a physician or utilizing telehealth equipment and procedures,
51 provided that the following conditions are met:

- 1 (1) In the case of involuntary commitment due to mental illness, the physician
2 who examines the respondent by means of telehealth must be satisfied to a
3 reasonable medical certainty that the determinations made in accordance with
4 subdivisions (a)(1) through (a)(3) of G.S. 122C-266 would not be different if
5 the examination had been done in the physical presence of the examining
6 physician. An examining physician who is not so satisfied must note that the
7 examination was not satisfactorily accomplished, and the respondent must be
8 taken for a face-to-face examination in the physical presence of a physician.
- 9 (2) In the case of involuntary commitment due to substance use disorder, the
10 physician who examines the respondent by means of telehealth must be
11 satisfied to a reasonable medical certainty that the determinations made in
12 accordance with G.S. 122C-285(a) would not be different if the examination
13 had been done in the physical presence of the commitment examiner. An
14 examining physician who is not so satisfied must note that the examination
15 was not satisfactorily accomplished, and the respondent must be taken for a
16 face-to-face examination in the physical presence of a qualified professional,
17 as defined in G.S. 122C-3; provided, that if the initial commitment
18 examination was performed by a qualified professional, then this face-to-face
19 examination shall be in the presence of a physician.

20 **SECTION 6.5.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law and expires on the
21 date the Governor rescinds Executive Order No. 116, Declaration of a State of Emergency to
22 Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19.
23

24 **HEALTH CARE LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR EMERGENCY OR DISASTER** 25 **TREATMENT**

26 **SECTION 6.6.(a)** Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
27 Article to read:

28 "Article 1L.

29 "Emergency or Disaster Treatment Protection Act.

30 **"§ 90-21.130. Short title.**

31 This Article shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency or Disaster Treatment
32 Protection Act.

33 **"§ 90-21.131. Purpose.**

34 It is the purpose of this section to promote the public health, safety, and welfare of all citizens
35 by broadly protecting the health care facilities and health care providers in this State from liability
36 that may result from treatment of individuals during the COVID-19 public health emergency
37 under conditions resulting from circumstances associated with the COVID-19 public health
38 emergency. A public health emergency that occurs on a statewide basis requires an enormous
39 response from state, federal, and local governments working in concert with private and public
40 health care providers in the community. The rendering of treatment to patients during such a
41 public health emergency is a matter of vital state concern affecting the public health, safety, and
42 welfare of all citizens.

43 **"§ 90-21.132. Definitions.**

44 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 45 (1) COVID-19. – Coronavirus disease 2019.
46 (2) COVID-19 emergency declaration. – Executive Order No. 116 issued March
47 10, 2020, by Governor Roy A. Cooper, including any amendments issued by
48 executive order, subject to extensions under Chapter 166A of the General
49 Statutes.
50 (3) COVID-19 emergency rule. – Any executive order, declaration, directive,
51 request, or other State or federal authorization, policy statement, rule making,

- 1 or regulation that waives, suspends, or modifies applicable State or federal
2 law regarding scope of practice, including modifications authorizing health
3 care providers licensed in another state to practice in this State, or the delivery
4 of care, including those regarding the facility space in which care is delivered
5 and which equipment is used during the COVID-19 emergency declaration.
- 6 (4) Damages. – Economic or non-economic losses for harm to an individual.
7 (5) Harm. – Physical and nonphysical contact that results in injury to or death of
8 an individual.
- 9 (6) Health care facility. – Any entity licensed pursuant to Chapter 122C, 131D,
10 or 131E of the General Statutes or Article 64 of Chapter 58 of the General
11 Statutes.
- 12 (7) Health care provider. –
- 13 a. An individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under
14 Chapter 90 or 90B of the General Statutes to provide health care
15 services in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession
16 or in an approved education or training program.
- 17 b. A health care facility where health care services are provided to
18 patients, residents, or others to whom such services are provided as
19 allowed by law.
- 20 c. Individuals licensed under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes or
21 practicing under a waiver in accordance with G.S. 90-12.5.
- 22 d. Any emergency medical services personnel as defined in
23 G.S. 131E-155(7).
- 24 e. Any individual providing health care services within the scope of
25 authority permitted by a COVID-19 emergency rule.
- 26 f. Any individual who is employed as a health care facility administrator,
27 executive, supervisor, board member, trustee, or other person in a
28 managerial position or comparable role at a health care facility.
- 29 g. An agent or employee of a health care facility that is licensed, certified,
30 or otherwise authorized to provide health care services.
- 31 h. An officer or director of a health care facility.
- 32 i. An agent or employee of a health care provider who is licensed,
33 certified, or otherwise authorized to provide health care services.
- 34 (8) Health care service. – Treatment, clinical direction, supervision, management,
35 or administrative or corporate service, provided by a health care facility or a
36 health care provider during the period of the COVID-19 emergency
37 declaration, regardless of the location in this State where the service is
38 rendered:
- 39 a. To provide testing, diagnosis, or treatment of a health condition,
40 illness, injury, or disease related to a confirmed or suspected case of
41 COVID-19.
- 42 b. To dispense drugs, medical devices, medical appliances, or medical
43 goods for the treatment of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease
44 related to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.
- 45 c. To provide care to any other individual who presents or otherwise
46 seeks care at or from a health care facility or to a health care provider
47 during the period of the COVID-19 emergency declaration.
- 48 (9) Volunteer organization. – Any medical organization, company, or institution
49 that has made its facility or facilities available to support the State's response
50 and activities under the COVID-19 emergency declaration and in accordance
51 with any applicable COVID-19 emergency rule.

"§ 90-21.133. Immunity.

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any health care facility, health care provider, or entity that has legal responsibility for the acts or omissions of a health care provider shall have immunity from any civil liability for any harm or damages alleged to have been sustained as a result of an act or omission in the course of arranging for or providing health care services only if all of the following apply:

(1) The health care facility, health care provider, or entity is arranging for or providing health care services during the period of the COVID-19 emergency declaration, including, but not limited to, the arrangement or provision of those services pursuant to a COVID-19 emergency rule.

(2) The arrangement or provision of health care services is impacted, directly or indirectly:

a. By a health care facility, health care provider, or entity's decisions or activities in response to or as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; or

b. By the decisions or activities, in response to or as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, of a health care facility or entity where a health care provider provides health care services.

(3) The health care facility, health care provider, or entity is arranging for or providing health care services in good faith.

(b) The immunity from any civil liability provided in subsection (a) of this section shall not apply if the harm or damages were caused by an act or omission constituting gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or intentional infliction of harm by the health care facility or health care provider providing health care services; provided, that the acts, omissions, or decisions resulting from a resource or staffing shortage shall not be considered to be gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or intentional infliction of harm.

(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a volunteer organization shall have immunity from any civil liability for any harm or damages occurring in or at its facility or facilities arising from the State's response and activities under the COVID-19 emergency declaration and in accordance with any applicable COVID-19 emergency rule, unless it is established that such harm or damages were caused by the gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or intentional infliction of harm by the volunteer organization.

"§ 90-21.134. Severability.

This section shall be liberally construed to effectuate its public health emergency purpose as outlined in G.S. 90-121.131. The provisions of this section are severable. If any part of this section is declared to be invalid by a court, the invalidity does not affect other parts of this section that can be given effect without the invalid provision."

SECTION 6.6.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to acts or omissions occurring during the time of Executive Order No. 116 issued on March 10, 2020, by Governor Roy A. Cooper, and any subsequent time period during which a state of emergency is declared to be in effect during calendar year 2020 by the Governor in response to COVID-19.

LOTTERY COMMISSION REPORT

SECTION 6.7.(a) The North Carolina State Lottery Commission shall submit a report relating to COVID-19 and associated economic impacts that contains at least all of the following:

- (1) The impact on sales of lottery games, including county-level data.
- (2) The impact on revenues.
- (3) The impact on retailers, including any changes to the number of retailers.
- (4) The impact on expenses of the lottery.
- (5) The impact upon transfers of net revenue pursuant to G.S. 18C-164.

1 **SECTION 6.7.(b)** The report shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight
2 Committee on the State Lottery and the Fiscal Research Division on or before September 1, 2020.

3 4 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION REVISIONS**

5 **SECTION 6.8.(a)** G.S. 159-33.1 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 159-33.1. Semiannual reports of financial information.**

7 (a) The finance officer of each unit and public authority shall submit to the secretary on
8 January 1 and July 1 of each year (or such other dates as the secretary may prescribe) a statement
9 of financial information concerning the unit or public authority. The secretary may prescribe the
10 information to be included in the statement and may prescribe the form of the statement;
11 provided, however, the secretary shall prescribe that the finance officer of each city and county
12 shall include in the statement the total revenues received from building inspections, by type, and
13 the total expenditures paid from all revenues received, by type.

14 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section or any rule or
15 regulation prescribed by the secretary, the finance officer of each unit and public authority shall
16 submit to the secretary a statement of financial information concerning the impact of COVID-19
17 on the finances of the unit or public authority no later than January 1, 2021. The information in
18 the statement shall be a year-to-date comparison to calendar year 2020 and shall include (i) utility
19 payments, including water, sewer, and electric, (ii) reductions in tax revenue, (iii) reductions in
20 services due to reductions in tax revenue, (iv) total revenues received from building inspections,
21 by type, (v) the ability to meet debt service obligations, (vi) the balances of any capital reserve
22 funds, (vii) the purpose of any withdrawals from capital reserve funds, and (viii) any other
23 information prescribed by the secretary. The Local Government Commission shall use the
24 information provided pursuant to this subsection to identify units and public authorities that
25 require assistance similar to that provided to units and public authorities on the Unit Assistance
26 List compiled by the Commission.

27 (c) No later than February 15, 2021, the Local Government Commission shall report on
28 the information provided by units and public authorities pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
29 including any recommendations for legislation, to the Joint Legislative Committee on General
30 Government and the Fiscal Research Division."

31 **SECTION 6.8.(b)** G.S. 159-33.1(b), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section
32 expires January 1, 2021, and G.S. 159-33.1(c), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section,
33 expires February 15, 2021.

34 35 **JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES/EXTEND REPORTING** 36 **DEADLINES**

37 **SECTION 6.9.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any report required by
38 law to be submitted to a joint legislative oversight committee of the General Assembly after
39 March 10, 2020, but before July 15, 2020, shall be held in abeyance until July 15, 2020.
40 Thereafter, the report shall be submitted to the appropriate oversight committee and shall contain
41 the information required by law. Any report required by law to be submitted to a joint legislative
42 oversight committee on or after July 15, 2020, shall be submitted as provided by law.

43 44 **RELEASE OF CERTAIN GRANT FUNDS**

45 **SECTION 6.10.** The Office of State Budget and Management shall release the seven
46 hundred thousand dollar (\$700,000) allocation authorized under subdivision (3) of subsection (c)
47 of Section 26.2 of S.L. 2017-57.

48 49 **USE OF FY 2019-2020 CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND BLOCK GRANT** 50 **INCREASED AVAILABILITY TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATE CHILD CARE NEEDS**

51 **SECTION 6.11.** Section 1.1(a) of S.L. 2019-192 reads as rewritten:

1 **"DHHS BLOCK GRANTS**

2 **"SECTION 1.1.(a)** Except as otherwise provided, appropriations from federal block grant
 3 funds are made for each year of the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2021, according to the
 4 following schedule:

5
 6 **TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) FUNDS** **FY 2019-2020** **FY 2020-2021**

7
 8
 9 ...

10
 11 **CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND BLOCK GRANT**

12
 13 **Local Program Expenditures**

14
 15 **Division of Child Development and Early Education**

16
 17 01. Child Care Services \$232,109,943 \$268,109,943 \$239,499,318

18
 19 ...

20
 21 04. Quality and Availability Initiatives
 22 (TEACH Program \$3,800,000) 55,217,124 67,217,124 55,217,124

23
 24 ...

25
 26 **TOTAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT**
 27 **FUND BLOCK GRANT** **\$347,525,572** **\$395,525,572** **\$354,547,850**

28
 29"

30
 31 **EMERGENCY VIDEO NOTARIZATION**

32 **SECTION 6.12.(a)** G.S. 10B-3 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

33 "(7a) Emergency video notarization. – An acknowledgement, affirmation, or oath
 34 notarization completed by a notary in compliance with the requirements of
 35 G.S. 10B-25. Emergency video notarization shall not include a verification or
 36 proof."

37 **SECTION 6.12.(b)** G.S. 10B-10 reads as rewritten:

38 **"§ 10B-10. Commission; oath of ~~office~~office; emergency extension.**

39 ...
 40 (b) ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection (b1) of this section, the appointee shall appear
 41 before the register of deeds no later than 45 days after commissioning and shall be duly qualified
 42 by taking the general oath of office prescribed in G.S. 11-11 and the oath prescribed for officers
 43 in G.S. 11-7.

44 (b1) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, if the Secretary grants a commission
 45 after March 9, 2020, and before October 1, 2020, the appointee shall have 90 days to appear
 46 before the register of deeds to take the general oath of office. A register of deeds may administer
 47 the required oath to such appointee using video conference technology provided the appointee is
 48 personally known to the register of deeds or the appointee provides satisfactory evidence of the
 49 appointee's identity to the register of deeds. As used in this subsection, video conference
 50 technology and satisfactory evidence are as defined in G.S. 10B-25.

51 ...

1 (e) If the appointee does not appear before the register of deeds within ~~45 days of~~
2 ~~commissioning, the time prescribed in this section,~~ the register of deeds must return the
3 commission to the Secretary, and the appointee must reapply for commissioning. If the appointee
4 reapplies within one year of the granting of the commission, the Secretary may waive the
5 educational requirements of this Chapter."

6 **SECTION 6.12.(c)** Part 3 of Article 1 of Chapter 10B of the General Statutes is
7 amended by adding a new section to read:

8 **"§ 10B-25. Emergency video notarization.**

9 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a notary may perform an emergency
10 video notarization using video conference technology provided all of the requirements of this
11 section are satisfied. A notary who is not satisfied that the principal's identity has been proven by
12 satisfactory evidence shall not be required to complete an emergency video notarization. An
13 emergency video notarization shall not change any originality verification requirements for
14 recording with a register of deeds, clerk of superior court, or other government or private office
15 in this State. Nothing in this section shall apply to any notarization under Article 20 of Chapter
16 163 of the General Statutes.

17 (b) As used in this section, video conference technology is electronic communication
18 that:

19 (1) Occurs in real time.

20 (1a) Allows direct interaction between the principal seeking the notary's services
21 and the notary so that each can communicate simultaneously by sight and
22 sound through an electronic device or process.

23 (2) Includes audio with sound clear enough that each participant in the notarial
24 act can hear and understand all other participants.

25 (3) Has sufficient quality to allow a clear and unobstructed visual observation of
26 the face of each participant, and any identification provided by the principal
27 for a sufficient time to allow the notary to determine if it is satisfactory
28 evidence. The notary shall determine if the time is sufficient.

29 (4) Is not prerecorded video or audio or both.

30 (5) May be capable of recording by means of one of the following:

31 a. The video conference technology's recording and storage services.

32 b. An independent video recording device.

33 c. Electronically saved screenshots clearly showing each participant's
34 face, identification presented by the principal, and the notarized
35 document.

36 (c) The requirement of personal appearance, appear in person before a notary, physical
37 presence, and presence, as those terms are used in this Chapter, are satisfied for the purpose of
38 an emergency video notarization if the notary is physically present in North Carolina, the
39 principal verifies to the notary that he or she is physically present in North Carolina at the time
40 of the notarization, the principal identifies the county where he or she is located at the time of the
41 notarial act, and the principal and notary use video conference technology that complies with the
42 requirements of this section.

43 (d) A notary who has personal knowledge of a principal may rely on the video conference
44 technology to verify the principal's identity unless the notary, in the notary's sole discretion,
45 requires satisfactory evidence. A notary who does not have personal knowledge of a principal
46 shall require satisfactory evidence of the principal's identity. The requirement of satisfactory
47 evidence, as that term is used in this Chapter, is satisfied for the purpose of an emergency video
48 notarization if identification of the principal is based on at least one document that meets all of
49 the following:

50 (1) Is current or, if expired, did not expire prior to March 10, 2020.

- 1 (2) Is issued by a federal, state, or federal or state-recognized tribal government
2 agency.
- 3 (3) Bears a photographic image of the principal's face.
- 4 (4) Has both the principal's signature and a physical description of the principal.
- 5 (e) The notary shall use video conference technology to observe each principal sign each
6 document that is to be notarized. The principal shall verbally state what documents are being
7 signed for the notarial record. After the document is signed by the principal, the principal or the
8 principal's designee shall do the following:
- 9 (1) If an original wet-signed notarization on an original wet-signed document is
10 not required, transmit a legible copy of the signed document to the notary by
11 fax or other electronic means on the same day it was signed. The notary shall
12 notarize the document on the same day the notary receives the document and
13 the notary shall transmit the notarized document back to the principal or the
14 principal's designee by physical delivery, fax, or other electronic means on the
15 same day the notary signed the document.
- 16 (2) If an original wet-signed notarization on an original wet-signed document, is
17 required, transmit a legible copy of the signed document by fax or other
18 electronic means to the notary on the same day on which the document was
19 signed and also deliver the original signed document to the notary by mail or
20 other physical method. The notary shall compare the original document with
21 the document transmitted by fax or other electronic means. If the faxed or
22 electronic document is the same as the document received by mail or physical
23 delivery, the notary shall notarize the wet-signature on the original document
24 and date the notarial act as of the date of the act observed using video
25 conference technology and promptly transmit the original wet-notarized
26 original document to the principal or the principal's designee by mail or other
27 physical delivery as directed by the principal.
- 28 (f) If the notarial act is an oath or affirmation, the notary shall administer the oath or
29 affirmation to the affiant using video conference technology.
- 30 (g) An acknowledgement or jurat certificate for an emergency video notarization shall
31 include all of the following:
- 32 (1) The North Carolina county in which the notary public was located during the
33 emergency video notarization.
- 34 (2) The North Carolina county in which the principal stated he or she was
35 physically located during the emergency video notarization.
- 36 (3) The following statement:
- 37 I signed this notarial certificate on _____ (Date) according to the emergency video
38 notarization requirements contained in G.S. 10B-25.
- 39 (h) If an acknowledgement or jurat certificate provided to a notary does not include the
40 statement required by subsection (g) of this section, the notary shall insert the statement. By
41 making or giving a notarial certificate using emergency video notarization, whether or not stated
42 in the certificate, a notary certifies compliance with all the requirements of this section.
- 43 (i) A notary who performs an emergency video notarization shall record information
44 about the notarization in a notary journal that is the exclusive property of the notary. The journal
45 shall be retained by the notary for at least 10 years and may be maintained in electronic form.
46 The notary shall keep the journal in a secure location and shall not allow another person to make
47 entries in the journal. A notary may surrender the journal to the notary's employer upon
48 termination of employment, but the notary shall also keep and maintain an accurate copy of the
49 journal.
- 50 (j) At a minimum, for each emergency video notarization, the notary shall include the
51 following information in the journal:

- 1 (1) The time of day when the notary observed the signing of the document by
2 each principal and was presented with the principal's acceptable form of
3 identification.
4 (2) The date of the completion of the emergency video notarization notarial
5 certificate.
6 (3) The last and first name of each principal.
7 (4) The type of notarial act performed.
8 (5) The type of document notarized or proceeding performed.
9 (6) The type of acceptable form of identification presented including, if
10 applicable, the issuing agency and identification number on the identification
11 presented.
12 (7) The type of video conference technology used during the emergency video
13 notarization.
14 (8) A statement that the notary and each principal could see and hear each other.
15 (9) Whether any other person was present with the principal at the time of
16 signature and if so, the name of that person.

17 (k) A third party involved in a transaction that utilizes an emergency video notarization
18 may require additional information to be included in the journal kept by the notary under
19 subsection (j) of this section such as inclusion of a recording in the notary's journal or the method
20 used by the notary to determine that a wet-signed original document is the same as the faxed or
21 electronically submitted document.

22 (l) As a public official, a notary shall maintain the confidentiality of a principal's
23 documents at all times.

24 (m) The Secretary may issue interpretive guidance or issue emergency or temporary rules
25 as necessary to ensure the integrity of the emergency video notarization measures provided for
26 in this section.

27 (n) This section shall expire at 12:01 A.M. on August 1, 2020; provided however, all
28 notarial acts made in accordance with this section and while this section is in effect shall remain
29 effective and shall not need to be reaffirmed."

30 **SECTION 6.12.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

31 32 **EMERGENCY VIDEO WITNESSING**

33 **SECTION 6.13.(a)** Chapter 10B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
34 Article to read:

35 "Article 3.

36 "Video Witnessing During State of Emergency.

37 **"§ 10B-200. Applicability.**

38 (a) This Article applies to the witnessing and signature of all records, as defined in
39 G.S. 10B-3(19), signed on or after the effective date of this act.

40 (b) This Article expires upon termination of the State of Emergency declared by
41 Governor Roy Cooper in Executive Order No. 116, on March 10, 2020, as the same may be
42 extended by any subsequent executive order.

43 (c) No action described in this Article constitutes a notarial act, as defined in
44 G.S. 10B-3(11), and no action described in this Article is governed by Articles 1 or 2 of this
45 Chapter.

46 **"§ 10B-201. Emergency video witnessing.**

47 (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any person who witnesses
48 the signature of a record through videoconference technology shall be considered an "in person"
49 witness and the record shall be considered to have been signed by the principal signer "in the
50 presence of" such witness, if the video conference technology allows for direct, real-time audio
51 and video interaction between each principal signer and the witness.

1 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, an attesting witness to a
2 record shall be considered to have signed such record in the presence of the principal signer, if
3 all of the following are satisfied:

4 (1) The signature of the principal signer is witnessed by the attesting witness in
5 accordance with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

6 (2) The attesting witness immediately thereafter signs such record while the video
7 conference technology still allows for direct, real-time audio and video
8 interaction between the principal signer and the attesting witness.

9 (c) Any record witnessed pursuant to this section shall contain all of the following:

10 (1) A conspicuous statement indicating that the record was witnessed by one or
11 more witnesses physically located in the State of North Carolina pursuant to
12 this Article.

13 (2) The county in which each remote witness was physically located when
14 witnessing execution of the record.

15 (3) The county in which each principal signer was physically located during the
16 witnessed execution of the record.

17 (d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, absent an express
18 prohibition in a legal document against signing in counterparts, any record witnessed pursuant to
19 this Article may be signed in counterpart, which counterparts, when combined, shall create a
20 single original record."

21 **SECTION 6.13.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

22
23 **WITNESS REQUIREMENT DURING STATE OF EMERGENCY/HEALTH CARE**
24 **POWER OF ATTORNEY AND ADVANCED DIRECTIVE FOR NATURAL DEATH**

25 **SECTION 6.14.(a)** G.S. 32A-16 reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 32A-16. Definitions.**

27 The following definitions apply in this Article:

28 ...

29 (3) Health care power of attorney. – ~~A~~ Except as provided in G.S. 32A-16.1, a
30 written instrument that substantially meets the requirements of this Article,
31 that is signed in the presence of two qualified witnesses, and acknowledged
32 before a notary public, pursuant to which an attorney-in-fact or agent is
33 appointed to act for the principal in matters relating to the health care of the
34 principal. The notary who takes the acknowledgement may but is not required
35 to be a paid employee of the attending physician or mental health treatment
36 provider, a paid employee of a health facility in which the principal is a
37 patient, or a paid employee of a nursing home or any adult care home in which
38 the principal resides.

39 ...

40 (6) Qualified witness. – ~~A~~ Except as provided in G.S. 32A-16.1, a witness in
41 whose presence the principal has executed the health care power of attorney,
42 who believes the principal to be of sound mind, and who states that he or she
43 (i) is not related within the third degree to the principal nor to the principal's
44 spouse, (ii) does not know nor have a reasonable expectation that he or she
45 would be entitled to any portion of the estate of the principal upon the
46 principal's death under any existing will or codicil of the principal or under
47 the Intestate Succession Act as it then provides, (iii) is not the attending
48 physician or mental health treatment provider of the principal, nor a licensed
49 health care provider who is a paid employee of the attending physician or
50 mental health treatment provider, nor a paid employee of a health facility in
51 which the principal is a patient, nor a paid employee of a nursing home or any

1 adult care home in which the principal resides, and (iv) does not have a claim
2 against any portion of the estate of the principal at the time of the principal's
3 execution of the health care power of attorney.

4"

5 **SECTION 6.14.(b)** Article 3 of Chapter 32A of the General Statutes is amended by
6 adding a new section to read:

7 **"§ 32A-16.1. Health care powers of attorney executed during State of Emergency.**

8 (a) The requirement of G.S. 32A-16(3) that a health care power of attorney be executed
9 in the presence of two qualified witnesses shall be waived for all instruments executed on or after
10 the effective date of this section and prior to termination of the State of Emergency declared by
11 Governor Roy Cooper in Executive Order No. 116, on March 10, 2020, as the same may be
12 extended by any subsequent executive order, such that an instrument that is signed by the
13 principal, properly acknowledged before a notary public, and otherwise executed in compliance
14 with the provisions of this Article shall not be invalidated by the principal's failure to execute the
15 health care power of attorney in the presence of two qualified witnesses.

16 (b) Health care powers of attorney executed without two qualified witnesses during the
17 time period defined in subsection (a) of this section shall contain a short and plain statement
18 indicating that the instrument was executed in accordance with the procedures of this section.

19 (c) This section shall expire at 12:01 A.M. on August 1, 2020; provided, however, all
20 instruments made in accordance with this section and while this section is in effect shall remain
21 effective and shall not need to be reaffirmed."

22 **SECTION 6.14.(c)** G.S. 90-321 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 90-321. Right to a natural death.**

24 (a) The following definitions apply in this Article:

25 ...

26 (1a) Declaration. – ~~Any~~ Except as provided in G.S. 90-321.1, any signed,
27 witnessed, dated, and proved document meeting the requirements of
28 subsection (c) of this section.

29 ...

30 (c) The attending physician shall follow, subject to subsections (b), (e), and (k) of this
31 section, a declaration:

32 ...

33 (3) ~~That~~ Except as provided in G.S. 90-321.1, that has been signed by the
34 declarant in the presence of two witnesses who believe the declarant to be of
35 sound mind and who state that they (i) are not related within the third degree
36 to the declarant or to the declarant's spouse, (ii) do not know or have a
37 reasonable expectation that they would be entitled to any portion of the estate
38 of the declarant upon the declarant's death under any will of the declarant or
39 codicil thereto then existing or under the Intestate Succession Act as it then
40 provides, (iii) are not the attending physician, licensed health care providers
41 who are paid employees of the attending physician, paid employees of a health
42 facility in which the declarant is a patient, or paid employees of a nursing
43 home or any adult care home in which the declarant resides, and (iv) do not
44 have a claim against any portion of the estate of the declarant at the time of
45 the declaration; and

46"

47 **SECTION 6.14.(d)** Article 23 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by
48 adding a new section to read:

49 **"§ 90-321.1. Advanced directive for a natural death executed during a State of Emergency.**

50 (a) The requirement of G.S. 90-321 that an advanced directive for a natural death
51 declaration be executed in the presence of two qualified witnesses shall be waived for all

1 instruments executed on or after the effective date of this section and prior to termination of the
2 State of Emergency declared by Governor Roy Cooper in Executive Order No. 116, on March
3 10, 2020, as the same may be extended by any subsequent executive order, such that an
4 instrument that is signed by the declarant, properly acknowledged before a notary public, and
5 otherwise executed in compliance with the provisions of this Article shall not be invalidated by
6 the declarant's failure to execute the advanced directive for a natural death declaration in the
7 presence of two qualified witnesses.

8 (b) Advanced directives for a natural death declaration executed without two qualified
9 witnesses during the time period defined in subsection (a) of this section shall contain a short and
10 plain statement indicating that the instrument was executed in accordance with the procedures of
11 this section, which may but need not be cited by title or section number.

12 (c) This section shall expire at 12:01 A.M. on August 1, 2020; provided, however, all
13 instruments made in accordance with this section and while this section is in effect shall remain
14 effective and shall not need to be reaffirmed."

15 **SECTION 6.14.(e)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

17 **DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS PRIOR TO RECORDATION OF DEED IN CERTAIN** 18 **CIRCUMSTANCES**

19 **SECTION 6.15.(a)** Chapter 45A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
20 section to read:

21 **"§ 45A-4.1. Disbursement during certain declarations of emergency.**

22 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, in real estate transactions
23 involving a one- to four-family residential dwelling or a lot restricted to residential use, a
24 settlement agent may, in accordance with this section, make disbursement of closing funds prior
25 to recordation of the deeds, deeds of trust, and any other required loan documents in the office
26 of the register of deeds.

27 (b) No disbursement of closing funds prior to recordation shall be made under this
28 section, unless all the following apply:

29 (1) On the date of closing, the office of the register of deeds where the deeds,
30 deeds of trust, and any other required loan documents are to be recorded meets
31 the following criteria:

32 a. Is located within the emergency area under G.S. 166A-19.20.

33 b. Is closed to the public as a result of the declaration of emergency.

34 c. Is unable to accept documents for recording by any method, including
35 in-person or electronic recording.

36 (2) The lender's closing instructions authorize disbursement of closing funds prior
37 to recording.

38 (3) All parties agree in writing to all the following:

39 a. To waive the requirement of G.S. 45A-4 that the settlement agent shall
40 not disburse closing funds until the deeds, deeds of trust, and any other
41 required loan documents are recorded in the office of the register of
42 deeds and the requirement of that section that closing funds be
43 disbursed only upon collected funds except as provided in
44 G.S. 45A-4(a)(1) through (7).

45 b. That they acknowledge that the recordation date may not be known on
46 the date of closing and the date of recordation by the settlement agent
47 is governed by subsection (d) of this section.

48 c. That they are aware of the risks and implications of proceeding with
49 disbursement of closing funds and, if applicable, transfer of possession
50 of property prior to recordation.

1 d. That after disbursement of closing funds and prior to recordation no
2 party to the transaction will take any action to impair the quality of the
3 title in law or equity.

4 e. Any other terms the parties or the closing instructions require as a
5 condition of disbursement of closing funds prior to recording.

6 (4) The settlement agent does all the following:

7 a. Complies with all conditions of the closing instructions.

8 b. Procures a commitment of title insurance providing for title insurance
9 that includes indemnity coverage for the gap period between the date
10 of disbursement of closing funds and the date of recordation of the
11 necessary documents.

12 c. Updates the applicable title from the date of the preliminary title
13 opinion to the time of disbursement using those public records
14 reasonably available to the settlement agent on the date of
15 disbursement.

16 (c) In all transactions under this section in which the settlement agent makes a
17 disbursement of closing funds prior to recordation, the settlement agent shall hold in a fiduciary
18 capacity until the time provided in subsection (d) of this section all deeds, deeds of trust, and any
19 other required loan documents that are to be recorded.

20 (d) The authority under this section for the settlement agent to disburse closing proceeds
21 prior to recordation of the deeds, deeds of trust, and any other required loan documents shall
22 terminate on the earlier of the date the office of the register of deeds reopens for the transaction
23 of public business or begins to accept documents for electronic recording. Within three business
24 days of the time set forth in this subsection, the settlement agent shall record all deeds, deeds of
25 trust, and any other required loan documents being held under subsection (c) of this section and
26 shall immediately notify all parties that the documents have been recorded."

27 **SECTION 6.15.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and expires August
28 1, 2020.

30 MARRIAGE LICENSES

31 **SECTION 6.16.(a)** G.S. 51-8 reads as rewritten:

32 "**§ 51-8. License issued by register of deeds.**

33 (a) Every register of deeds shall, upon proper application, issue a license for the marriage
34 of any two persons who are able to answer the questions regarding age, marital status, and
35 intention to marry, and, based on the answers, the register of deeds determines the persons are
36 authorized to be married in accordance with the laws of this State. In making a determination as
37 to whether or not the parties are authorized to be married under the laws of this State, the register
38 of deeds may require the applicants for the license to marry to present certified copies of birth
39 certificates or such other evidence as the register of deeds deems necessary to the determination.
40 The register of deeds may administer an oath to any person presenting evidence relating to
41 whether or not parties applying for a marriage license are eligible to be married pursuant to the
42 laws of this State. Each applicant for a marriage license shall provide on the application the
43 applicant's social security number. If an applicant does not have a social security number and is
44 ineligible to obtain one, the applicant shall present a statement to that effect, sworn to or affirmed
45 before an officer authorized to administer oaths. Upon presentation of a sworn or affirmed
46 statement, the register of deeds shall issue the license, provided all other requirements are met,
47 and retain the statement with the register's copy of the license. The register of deeds shall not
48 issue a marriage license unless all of the requirements of this section have been met.

49 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, throughout the duration of any
50 declaration of emergency issued under G.S. 166A-19.20, any register of deeds may issue a

1 license for marriage via remote audio-video communication provided the register of deeds can
 2 positively identify each applicant before the register of deeds."

3 **SECTION 6.16.(b)** G.S. 51-16 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 51-16. Form of license.**

5 License shall be in the following or some equivalent form:

6 To any ordained minister of any religious denomination, minister authorized by a church, any
 7 magistrate, or any other person authorized to solemnize a marriage under the laws of this State:
 8 A.B. having applied to me for a license for the marriage of C.D. (the name of the man to be
 9 written in full) of (here state his residence), aged ____ years (race, as the case may be), the son
 10 of (here state the father and mother, if known; state whether they are living or dead, and their
 11 residence, if known; if any of these facts are not known, so state), and E.F. (write the name of
 12 the woman in full) of (here state her residence), aged ____ years (race, as the case may be), the
 13 daughter of (here state names and residences of the parents, if known, as is required above with
 14 respect to the man). (If either of the parties is under 18 years of age, the license shall here contain
 15 the following:) And the written consent of G.H., father (or mother, etc., as the case may be) to
 16 the proposed marriage having been filed with me, and there being no legal impediment to such
 17 marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time within ~~60~~120 days from the date
 18 hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within the State. You are required within
 19 10 days after you shall have celebrated such marriage, to return this license to me at my office
 20 with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this license, and with the blanks therein
 21 filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to the use
 22 of any person who shall sue for the same.

23 Issued this ____ day of _____, ____

24 _____ L.M.

25 Register of Deeds of ____ County

26 Every register of deeds shall, at the request of an applicant, designate in a marriage license
 27 issued the race of the persons proposing to marry by inserting in the blank after the word "race"
 28 the words "white," "black," "African-American," "American Indian," "Alaska Native," "Asian
 29 Indian," "Chinese," "Filipino," "Japanese," "Korean," "Vietnamese," "Other Asian," "Native
 30 Hawaiian," "Guamarian," "Chamorro," "Samoan," "Other Pacific Islander," "Mexican,"
 31 "Mexican-American," "Chicano," "Puerto Rican," "Cuban," "Other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino," or
 32 "other," as the case may be. The certificate shall be filled out and signed by the minister, officer,
 33 or other authorized individual celebrating the marriage, and also be signed by two witnesses
 34 present at the marriage, who shall add to their names their place of residence, as follows:

35 I, N.O., an ordained or authorized minister or other authorized individual of (here state to
 36 what religious denomination, or magistrate, as the case may be), united in matrimony (here name
 37 the parties), the parties licensed above, on the ____ day of _____, ____, at the house of P.R., in
 38 (here name the town, if any, the township and county), according to law.

39 _____ N.O.

40 Witness present at the marriage:

41 S.T., of (here give residence)."

42 **SECTION 6.16.(c)** This section becomes effective when it becomes law, applies to
 43 any marriage license issued on or after March 10, 2020, expires August 1, 2020, and any
 44 marriage license issued on or before that date shall be valid for 120 days.

45
 46 **WAIVE ACCRUAL OF INTEREST ON DEFERRED PAYMENT OF CORPORATE**
 47 **INCOME AND FRANCHISE TAX AND INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX AND EXTEND**
 48 **CERTAIN TAX-RELATED DEADLINES**

49 **SECTION 6.17.(a)** Interest Waiver. – As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the
 50 Secretary of Revenue has extended the franchise, corporate income, and individual income tax
 51 payment deadline from April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020, and pursuant to G.S. 105-249.2, the

1 Secretary will not assess a penalty for failure to file a return or pay a tax due as long as the return
2 is filed and the tax due is paid by July 15, 2020. Notwithstanding G.S. 105-241.21(b), the
3 Secretary of Revenue shall also waive the accrual of interest from April 15, 2020, through July
4 15, 2020, on an underpayment of tax imposed on a franchise, corporate income, or individual
5 income tax return, including a partnership and estate and trust tax return, due from April 15,
6 2020, through July 15, 2020. The relief from accrual of interest from April 15, 2020, through
7 July 15, 2020, also includes interest imposed pursuant to G.S. 105-163.15 and G.S. 105-163.41
8 for payments due on or before July 15, 2020.

9 **SECTION 6.17.(b)** Refund Request. – For franchise, corporate income, and
10 individual income tax, the statute of limitations for obtaining a refund is extended to July 15,
11 2020, for refund claims for which the statute of limitations to seek a refund expires on or after
12 April 15, 2020, and before July 15, 2020.

13 **SECTION 6.17.(c)** Time-Sensitive Actions. – Certain actions required to be taken
14 by a taxpayer on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020, will be considered timely if the
15 request or petition is filed on or before July 15, 2020. This subsection applies to requests for
16 Departmental review under G.S. 105-241.11, petitions for a contested case hearing at the Office
17 of Administrative Hearings under Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes and
18 G.S. 105-241.15, and petitions for judicial review under Article 4 of Chapter 150B of the General
19 Statutes and G.S. 105-241.16.

20 **SECTION 6.17.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

21 22 **FLEXIBILITY TO ADMINISTER UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND SUTA** 23 **TAX CREDIT**

24 **SECTION 6.18.(a)** Chapter 96 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
25 section to read:

26 "**§ 96-14.15. Emergency unemployment benefits and tax credit to respond to the**
27 **coronavirus emergency of 2020.**

28 (a) **Benefits Payable.** – Unemployment benefits are payable in response to the
29 coronavirus emergency in any of the following circumstances:

- 30 (1) **An employer temporarily ceases operations due to the coronavirus, preventing**
31 **the individual from going to work.**
- 32 (2) **An employer reduces the hours of employment due to the coronavirus.**
- 33 (3) **An individual has a current diagnosis of the coronavirus.**
- 34 (4) **An individual is quarantined at the instruction of a health care provider or a**
35 **local, State, or federal official.**

36 (b) **Exceptions Allowed.** – The provisions of this Chapter apply to benefits payable under
37 this section except as follows:

- 38 (1) **Waiting week.** – No waiting week applies to a claim for unemployment under
39 **this section.**
- 40 (2) **Work search.** – The work search requirements do not apply to an individual
41 **who is eligible for unemployment under this section.**
- 42 (3) **Non-charging.** – Benefits paid to an individual under this section are not
43 **charged to the account of any base period employer of the individual.**
- 44 (4) **Attached claim.** – An employer may file an attached claim for benefits allowed
45 **under this section. The restrictions for filing an attached claim under**
46 **G.S. 96-15(a1) do not apply to an employer-filed claim under this section and**
47 **a claim filed by an employer under this section is not an attached claim filed**
48 **under G.S. 96-15(a1).**

49 (c) **Tax Credit.** – An employer is allowed a tax credit for a contribution to the
50 **Unemployment Insurance Fund payable under G.S. 96-9.2 for contributions due for the calendar**

1 year 2020. The amount of the credit is equal to the amount of contributions payable on the report
2 filed by the employer on or before April 30, 2020.

3 If an employer remitted the contributions payable with the report due on or before April 30,
4 2020, the credit will be applied to the contributions payable on the report due on or before July
5 31, 2020. An employer must file the report to receive the credit. If the amount of the credit
6 exceeds the amount of contributions due on the report, the excess credit amount is considered an
7 overpayment and will be refunded pursuant to G.S. 96-9.15(b).

8 (d) **Coronavirus.** – For purposes of this section, the term "coronavirus" has the same
9 meaning as defined in section 506 of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental
10 Appropriations Act, 2020.

11 (e) **Applicability.** – This section applies for unemployment benefits filed for periods
12 beginning on or after March 10, 2020, and expires for unemployment benefits filed for periods
13 beginning on or after the earlier of the following: (i) the date the Governor signs an executive
14 order rescinding Executive Order No. 116, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate
15 Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19, or (ii) December 31,
16 2020."

17 **SECTION 6.18.(b)** Notwithstanding G.S. 96-14.9, an individual may meet the
18 reporting requirements of that section by telephone or via the Internet for the period beginning
19 March 10, 2020, and ending on the earlier of the following: (i) the date the Governor signs an
20 executive order rescinding Executive Order No. 116, Declaration of a State of Emergency to
21 Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19, or (ii)
22 December 31, 2020.

23 **SECTION 6.18.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.
24

25 **CHANGES TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE LAWS, AS RECOMMENDED**
26 **BY THE DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AND THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE**
27 **OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

28 **SECTION 6.19.(a)** G.S. 96-14.9(e) reads as rewritten:

29 "(e) **Actively Seeking Work.** – The Division's determination of whether an individual is
30 actively seeking work is based upon the following:

31 ...

32 (3) The individual has made at least three job contacts with potential employers
33 during the week. An individual may satisfy one of the weekly job contacts by
34 attending a reemployment activity offered by a local career center. The
35 Division shall verify the suitability of the activity for the credit and the
36 claimant's attendance at the activity.

37"

38 **SECTION 6.19.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2020.

39 **SECTION 6.20.(a)** G.S. 96-15 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

40 "(a2) **Federal Disaster Declaration.** – An employer may file claims for employees through
41 the use of automation in the case of unemployment due directly to a disaster covered by a federal
42 disaster declaration."

43 **SECTION 6.20.(b)** G.S. 105-356(a) reads as rewritten:

44 "(a) **On Real Property.** – The lien of taxes imposed on real and personal property shall
45 attach to real property at the time prescribed in G.S. 105-355(a). The priority of that lien shall be
46 determined in accordance with the following rules:

47 (1) Subject to the provisions of the Revenue Act prescribing the priority of the
48 lien for State taxes, the lien of taxes imposed under the provisions of this
49 Subchapter shall be superior to all other liens, assessments, charges, rights,
50 and claims of any and every kind in and to the real property to which the lien
51 for taxes attaches regardless of the claimant and regardless of whether

1 acquired prior or subsequent to the attachment of the lien for taxes. For
2 purposes of this subdivision, the term "lien for State taxes" includes a lien for
3 contributions under G.S. 96-10.

4"

5 **SECTION 6.20.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

6 **SECTION 6.21.(a)** G.S. 120-70.158 is repealed.

7 **SECTION 6.21.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

8 9 **ADDITIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE LAW REVISIONS**

10 **SECTION 6.22.** Temporary Change/State Emergency Unemployment Aid. –
11 Notwithstanding any provision of G.S. 96-14.2 to the contrary, effective from August 1, 2020,
12 through December 31, 2020, the weekly benefit amount for an individual who is totally
13 unemployed is an amount equal to the wages paid to the individual in the highest paid completed
14 quarter of the individual's base period divided by 52 and rounded to the next lower whole dollar.

15 **SECTION 6.23.** Permanent Change/Up Weekly Benefit Maximum. – Effective
16 August 1, 2020, G.S. 96-14.2(a) reads as rewritten:

17 "(a) Weekly Benefit Amount. – The weekly benefit amount for an individual who is totally
18 unemployed is an amount equal to the wages paid to the individual in the last two completed
19 quarters of the individual's base period divided by 52 and rounded to the next lower whole dollar.
20 If this amount is less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00), the individual is not eligible for benefits. The
21 weekly benefit amount may not exceed ~~three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00).~~ four hundred dollars
22 (\$400.00)."

23 24 **PUBLIC BODIES/REMOTE MEETINGS DURING DECLARED EMERGENCIES**

25 **SECTION 6.24.(a)** Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes is amended
26 by adding a new section to read:

27 **"§ 166A-19.24. Remote meetings during certain declarations of emergency.**

28 (a) Remote Meetings. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon issuance of a
29 declaration of emergency under G.S. 166A-19.20, any public body within the emergency area
30 may conduct remote meetings in accordance with this section and Article 33C of Chapter 143 of
31 the General Statutes throughout the duration of that declaration of emergency.

32 (b) Requirements. – The public body shall comply with all of the following with respect
33 to remote meetings conducted under this section:

34 (1) The public body shall give proper notice under G.S. 143-318.12 and under
35 any other requirement for notice applicable to the public body. The notice
36 shall also specify the means by which the public can access the remote
37 meeting as that remote meeting occurs.

38 (2) Any member of the public body participating by a method of simultaneous
39 communication in which that member cannot be physically seen by the public
40 body must identify himself or herself in each of the following situations:

41 a. When the roll is taken or the remote meeting is commenced.

42 b. Prior to participating in the deliberations, including making motions,
43 proposing amendments, and raising points of order.

44 c. Prior to voting.

45 (3) All documents to be considered during the remote meeting shall be provided
46 to each member of the public body.

47 (4) The method of simultaneous communication shall allow for any member of
48 the public body to do all of the following:

49 a. Hear what is said by the other members of the public body.

50 b. Hear what is said by any individual addressing the public body.

- 1 c. To be heard by the other members of the public body when speaking
2 to the public body.
- 3 (5) All votes shall be roll call; no vote by secret or written ballots, whether by
4 paper or electronic means or in accordance with G.S. 143-318.13(b), may be
5 taken during the remote meeting.
- 6 (6) The public body shall comply with G.S. 143-318.13(c).
- 7 (7) The minutes of the remote meeting shall reflect that the meeting was
8 conducted by use of simultaneous communication, which members were
9 participating by simultaneous communication, and when such members
10 joined or left the remote meeting.
- 11 (8) All chats, instant messages, texts, or other written communications between
12 members of the public body regarding the transaction of the public business
13 during the remote meeting are deemed a public record.
- 14 (9) The remote meeting shall be simultaneously streamed live online so that
15 simultaneous live audio, and video if any, of such meeting is available to the
16 public. If the remote meeting is conducted by conference call, the public body
17 may comply with this subdivision by providing the public with an opportunity
18 to dial-in or stream the audio live and listen to the remote meeting.
- 19 (c) Quorum. – A member of the public body participating by simultaneous
20 communication under this section shall be counted as present for quorum purposes only during
21 the period while simultaneous communication is maintained for that member. The provisions of
22 G.S. 153A-44 and G.S. 160A-75 shall apply to all votes of each member of a county or municipal
23 governing board taken during a remote meeting.
- 24 (d) Voting by Members of the Public Body. – Votes of each member of a public body
25 made during a remote meeting under this section shall be counted as if the member were
26 physically present only during the period while simultaneous communication is maintained for
27 that member.
- 28 (e) Public Hearings. – A public body may conduct any public hearing required or
29 authorized by law during a remote meeting, and take action thereon, provided the public body
30 allows for written comments on the subject of the public hearing to be submitted between
31 publication of any required notice and 24 hours after the public hearing.
- 32 (f) Quasi-Judicial Hearings. – A public body may conduct a quasi-judicial proceeding as
33 a remote meeting only when all of the following apply:
- 34 (1) The right of an individual to a hearing and decision occur during the
35 emergency.
- 36 (2) All persons subject to the quasi-judicial proceeding who have standing to
37 participate in the quasi-judicial hearing have been given notice of the
38 quasi-judicial hearing and consent to the remote meeting.
- 39 (3) All due process rights of the parties affected are protected.
- 40 (g) Closed Sessions. – The public body may conduct a closed session as authorized in
41 G.S. 143-318.11. While in closed session, the public body is not required to provide access to the
42 remote meeting to the public.
- 43 (h) Not Exclusive. – This section applies only during emergency declarations and does
44 not supersede any authority for electronic meetings under Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the
45 General Statutes.
- 46 (i) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
- 47 (1) Official meeting. – As defined in G.S. 143-318.10(d).
- 48 (2) Public body. – As defined in G.S. 143-318.10(b) and (c).
- 49 (3) Remote meeting. – An official meeting, or any part thereof, with between one
50 and all of the members of the public body participating by simultaneous
51 communication.

1 (4) Simultaneous communication. – Any communication by conference
2 telephone, conference video, or other electronic means."

3 **SECTION 6.24.(b)** G.S. 143-318.10(a) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a) Except as provided in G.S. 143-318.11, 143-318.14A, and 143-318.18, each official
5 meeting of a public body shall be open to the public, and any person is entitled to attend such a
6 meeting. Remote meetings conducted in accordance with G.S. 166A-19.24 shall comply with
7 this subsection even if all members of the public body are participating remotely."

8 **SECTION 6.24.(c)** G.S. 143-318.13 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 "(d) Except as provided in G.S. 166A-19.24(b)(6), this section shall not apply to remote
10 meetings conducted in accordance with that section even if all members of the public body are
11 participating remotely."

12 **SECTION 6.24.(d)** G.S. 143-318.14A(e) reads as rewritten:

13 "(e) The following sections shall apply to meetings of commissions, committees, and
14 standing subcommittees of the General Assembly: G.S. 143-318.10(e) and G.S. 143-318.11,
15 G.S. 143-318.13 and G.S. 143-318.14, G.S. 143-318.16 through
16 ~~G.S. 143-318.17.~~ G.S. 143-318.17, and G.S. 166A-19.24."

17 **SECTION 6.24.(e)** G.S. 153A-43 reads as rewritten:

18 "**§ 153A-43. Quorum.**

19 (a) A majority of the membership of the board of commissioners constitutes a quorum.
20 The number required for a quorum is not affected by vacancies. If a member has withdrawn from
21 a meeting without being excused by majority vote of the remaining members present, he shall be
22 counted as present for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. The board may
23 compel the attendance of an absent member by ordering the sheriff to take the member into
24 custody.

25 (b) Any member present by means of simultaneous communication in accordance with
26 G.S. 166A-19.24 shall be counted as present for the purposes of whether a quorum is present
27 only during the period while simultaneous communication is maintained for that member."

28 **SECTION 6.24.(f)** G.S. 160A-74 reads as rewritten:

29 "**§ 160A-74. Quorum.**

30 (a) A majority of the actual membership of the council plus the mayor, excluding vacant
31 seats, shall constitute a quorum. A member who has withdrawn from a meeting without being
32 excused by majority vote of the remaining members present shall be counted as present for
33 purposes of determining whether or not a quorum is present.

34 (b) Any member present by means of simultaneous communication in accordance with
35 G.S. 166A-19.24 shall be counted as present for the purposes of whether a quorum is present
36 only during the period while simultaneous communication is maintained for that member."

37 **SECTION 6.24.(g)** G.S. 160A-75, effective until January 1, 2021, reads as rewritten:

38 "**§ 160A-75. (Effective until January 1, 2021) Voting.**

39 (a) No member shall be excused from voting except upon matters involving the
40 consideration of the member's own financial interest or official conduct or on matters on which
41 the member is prohibited from voting under G.S. 14-234, 160A-381(d), or 160A-388(e)(2). In
42 all other cases except votes taken under G.S. 160A-385, a failure to vote by a member who is
43 physically present in the council chamber, or who has withdrawn without being excused by a
44 majority vote of the remaining members present, shall be recorded as an affirmative vote. The
45 question of the compensation and allowances of members of the council is not a matter involving
46 a member's own financial interest or official conduct.

47 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a vote or failure to vote by any member
48 present by means of simultaneous communication in accordance with G.S. 166A-19.24 shall be
49 treated as if the member were physically present only during the period while simultaneous
50 communication is maintained for that member.

1 (c) An affirmative vote equal to a majority of all the members of the council not excused
2 from voting on the question in issue, including the mayor's vote in case of an equal division, shall
3 be required to adopt an ordinance, take any action having the effect of an ordinance, authorize or
4 commit the expenditure of public funds, or make, ratify, or authorize any contract on behalf of
5 the city. In addition, no ordinance nor any action having the effect of any ordinance may be
6 finally adopted on the date on which it is introduced except by an affirmative vote equal to or
7 greater than two thirds of all the actual membership of the council, excluding vacant seats and
8 not including the mayor unless the mayor has the right to vote on all questions before the council.
9 For purposes of this section, an ordinance shall be deemed to have been introduced on the date
10 the subject matter is first voted on by the council."

11 **SECTION 6.24.(h)** G.S. 160A-75, effective January 1, 2021, reads as rewritten:
12 "**§ 160A-75. (Effective January 1, 2021) Voting.**

13 (a) No member shall be excused from voting except upon matters involving the
14 consideration of the member's own financial interest or official conduct or on matters on which
15 the member is prohibited from voting under G.S. 14-234 or G.S. 160D-109. In all other cases
16 except votes taken under G.S. 160D-601, a failure to vote by a member who is physically present
17 in the council chamber, or who has withdrawn without being excused by a majority vote of the
18 remaining members present, shall be recorded as an affirmative vote. The question of the
19 compensation and allowances of members of the council is not a matter involving a member's
20 own financial interest or official conduct.

21 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a vote or failure to vote by any member
22 present by means of simultaneous communication in accordance with G.S. 166A-19.24 shall be
23 treated as if the member were physically present only during the period while simultaneous
24 communication is maintained for that member.

25 (c) An affirmative vote equal to a majority of all the members of the council not excused
26 from voting on the question in issue, including the mayor's vote in case of an equal division, shall
27 be required to adopt an ordinance, take any action having the effect of an ordinance, authorize or
28 commit the expenditure of public funds, or make, ratify, or authorize any contract on behalf of
29 the city. In addition, no ordinance nor any action having the effect of any ordinance, except an
30 ordinance on which a public hearing must be held pursuant to G.S. 160D-601 before the
31 ordinance may be adopted, may be finally adopted on the date on which it is introduced except
32 by an affirmative vote equal to or greater than two thirds of all the actual membership of the
33 council, excluding vacant seats and not including the mayor unless the mayor has the right to
34 vote on all questions before the council. For purposes of this section, an ordinance shall be
35 deemed to have been introduced on the date the subject matter is first voted on by the council."

36 **SECTION 6.24.(i)** This section does not affect the validity of S.L. 2008-111.

37 **SECTION 6.24.(j)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies
38 throughout the duration of any declaration of emergency issued under G.S. 166A-19.20 in effect
39 on or after that date. The actions of any public body in an open meeting conducted via
40 simultaneous communication between March 10, 2020, and the effective date of this section are
41 not deemed invalid due to the use of simultaneous communication to conduct that open meeting.
42

43 **ESTABLISHMENT OF TEMPORARY PANDEMIC RECOVERY OFFICE**

44 **SECTION 6.25.** OSBM shall establish a temporary North Carolina Pandemic
45 Recovery Office (Office) to oversee and coordinate funds made available under COVID-19
46 Recovery Legislation. This Office shall also provide technical assistance and ensure coordination
47 of federal funds received by State agencies and local governments and ensure proper reporting
48 and accounting of all funds. The authorization set forth in this section expires 12 months from
49 the effective date of this act and the Office shall cease to operate upon expiration of the
50 authorization.
51

FUNDS FOR TESTING, CONTACT TRACING, AND TRENDS TRACKING AND ANALYSIS

SECTION 6.26.(a) OSBM shall not release the funds allocated in Section 3.3(22) of this act to the Department of Health and Human Services until the Department fulfills all of the following requirements:

- (1) The Department shall require each person in charge of a laboratory providing diagnostic service in this State and any other health care provider licensed in this State that provides diagnostic service to report the results of all COVID-19 testing to the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services shall post both positive and negative COVID-19 test results on the Department's Internet website, as part of its COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard.
- (2) The Department shall post on its Internet website information about any vendor contracted to perform COVID-19 testing, upon the execution of a contract with the vendor. This information posted shall include the cost per test.
- (3) The Department shall collect and report on its Internet web site COVID-19 recovery rates, as defined by the Department.
- (4) The Department shall report COVID-19-related hospital discharges, along with underlying health conditions, if any, associated with each COVID-19 hospital discharge.
- (5) The Department shall provide comprehensive reporting on COVID-19 deaths, including the percentage of patients diagnosed with severe comorbidities prior to being diagnosed with COVID-19 and whether these deaths are solely classified as deaths due to COVID-19.

SECTION 6.26.(b) Within six months after receiving funds allocated under Section 3.3(22) of this act, the Department of Health and Human Services and any public or private entity that is the recipient of funds allocated under Section 3.3(22) of this act shall report on the use of these funds to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services.

LIMITED BUSINESS IMMUNITY FOR ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

SECTION 6.27. Chapter 66 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article 48 to read:

"Article 48.

"Limited Business Immunity.

"§ 66-460. Essential businesses; liability limitation

Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to G.S. 66-461, an essential business that provides goods or services in this State shall have immunity from civil liability to any customer or employee for any injuries or death alleged to have been caused as a result of the customer or employee contracting COVID-19 while doing business with or while employed by the essential business. The immunity from civil liability provided in this section shall not apply if the injuries or death were caused by an act or omission of the essential business constituting gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or intentional infliction of harm. This section does not preclude an employee of an essential business from seeking an appropriate remedy under Chapter 97 of the General Statutes for any injuries or death alleged to have been caused as a result of the employee contracting COVID-19 while employed by the essential business.

"§ 66-461. Applicability.

1 This Article applies to acts or omissions occurring on or after the issuance of the COVID-19
2 essential business executive order and expires when the COVID-19 emergency declaration is
3 rescinded.

4 **"§ 66-462. Definitions.**

5 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 6 (1) COVID-19. – The Coronavirus Disease 2019.
7 (2) COVID-19 emergency declaration. – Executive Order No. 116 issued March
8 10, 2020, by Governor Roy A. Cooper, including any amendments issued by
9 Executive Order, subject to extensions under Chapter 166A of the General
10 Statutes.
11 (3) COVID-19 essential business executive order. – Executive Order No. 121
12 issued March 27, 2020, by Governor Roy A. Cooper, including any
13 amendments issued by Executive Order, subject to extensions under Chapter
14 166A of the General Statutes.
15 (4) Essential business. – Businesses, not-for-profit organizations, educational
16 institutions, and governmental entities identified in the COVID-19 Essential
17 Business Executive Order. The term also applies to any business that the
18 Department of Revenue determines is essential.

19 **"§ 66-463. Severability.**

20 This Article shall be liberally construed to effectuate the public purpose of ensuring that
21 essential businesses can provide goods and services to the public during the COVID-19
22 pandemic. The provisions of this Article are severable. If any part of this Article is declared to
23 be invalid by a court, the invalidity does not affect other parts of this Article that can be given
24 effect without the invalid provision."

25
26 **PART VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

27
28 **EFFECT OF HEADINGS**

29 **SECTION 7.1.** The headings to the parts, subparts, and sections of this act are a
30 convenience to the reader and are for reference only. The headings do not expand, limit, or define
31 the text of this act, except for effective dates referring to a part or subpart.

32
33 **SEVERABILITY**

34 **SECTION 7.2.** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the
35 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect
36 without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are
37 severable.

38
39 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

40 **SECTION 7.3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
41 law.