

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H.B. 658
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH50078-LUa-43A (02/08)

Short Title: Early Literacy Initiative/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Burr.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR EARLY LITERACY INITIATIVES.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
5 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of
6 twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to be allocated to the North
7 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., to develop and implement a comprehensive early
8 literacy initiative. Funds allocated to the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., pursuant
9 to this section shall be used as follows:

- 10 (1) Seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) to increase access to Dolly Parton's
11 Imagination Library, an early literacy program that mails age-appropriate
12 books to registered children on a monthly basis. Access to the program shall
13 be statewide.
14 (2) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to pilot Family Connects, a nurse home
15 visiting program for all parents of newborns. The program shall be piloted in
16 six counties, including two counties with less than 500 births annually, two
17 counties with 500 to 2,000 births annually, and two counties with greater
18 than 2,000 births annually, with priority in counties that have already
19 implemented the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

20 **SECTION 1.(b)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., may use up to
21 two percent (2%) of the funds for program evaluation. Funds appropriated under this section
22 shall not be subject to the legislative requirements of the total amount allocated to the North
23 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., nor shall these funds be subject to the child care
24 services funding requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(b), child care subsidy expansion
25 requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(g), or the match requirements currently under Section
26 12B.7(d) of S.L. 2015-241.

27 **SECTION 1.(c)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall report on
28 the success of the comprehensive early literacy initiative, including any recommendations, to
29 the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by March 1, 2018.
30 The report shall include participation rates for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

31 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017.

