GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 439

Short Title:	Funds/Eliminate NC Pre-K Waitlist Statewide.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Waddell, Woodard, Van Duyn (Primary Sponsors); Bryant, Chaudhuri, J. Jackson, and Smith-Ingram.	
Referred to:	Rules and Operations of the Senate	

March 29, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO ELIMINATE THE WAITLIST FOR THE NC PRE-KINDERGARTEN (NC PRE-K) PROGRAM STATEWIDE.

Whereas, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services submitted its annual report on the NC Prekindergarten Program (NC Pre-K) dated March 15, 2016; and

Whereas, in the annual report, the Department of Health and Human Services referenced the results of an annual evaluation of the NC Pre-K program based on the 2014-2015 program year and noted the continued positive outcomes for the 2014-2015 program year, as well as in previous years; and

Whereas, the evaluation specifically noted that "children enrolled in the NC Pre-K program exhibited significant gains during their pre-k year across all domains of learning"; and

Whereas, the evaluation also stated that "children at different levels of English proficiency and dual-language learners exhibited significant gains across all domains of learning during their time in the NC Pre-K program"; and

Whereas, the evaluation further stated that "growth rates in domains of learning for children who had enrolled in NC Pre-K were even greater during pre-k than for normal developmental growth"; and

Whereas, all eligible four-year olds should be able to participate in and benefit from the positive outcomes associated with the NC Pre-K program; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of twelve million dollars ($12,000,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and the sum of twenty-four million four hundred thousand dollars ($24,400,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to eliminate the waitlist for the Prekindergarten Program (NC Pre-K) statewide.

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