

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021**

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**SENATE BILL 585**

Short Title: Funds/Eliminate NC Pre-K Waitlist Statewide. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Mohammed, Marcus, and Waddell (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 7, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

Whereas, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services submitted  
its annual report on the NC Prekindergarten (NC Pre-K) program 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 five hundred thousand dollars (\$12,500,000) recurring for each year of the  
2021-2023 fiscal biennium to eliminate the waitlist for the NC Prekindergarten (NC Pre-K)  
program statewide.

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.

