

**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**

**DATE: March 27, 2020**

**Upcoming Pertinent Legislative Meetings:**

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: <a href="https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio">https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio</a>
March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 1:00 p.m.	House Select Committee on COVID-19, continuity of State Operations	1228/1327 LB, audio available
April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00 a.m.	North Carolina Child Well-Being Transformation Council	Virtual Meeting, audio available
April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 12:00 p.m.	House Session Convenes	Audio available
April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 12:00 p.m.	Senate Session Convenes	Audio available

**Federal Legislation Passed For Coronavirus Relief:**

The House meets today to pass the \$2.2 trillion stimulus package in response to the economic crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Senate passed the stimulus bill 96-0. Americans making less than \$75,000 a year would receive a direct payment of \$1200 for individuals, \$2400 for married couples, and \$500 for every child under the age of 17. The bill also suspends interest and mandatory student loan payments for at least 60 days. The REAL ID implementation has been delayed until at least September 2021. The package also expands unemployment insurance with an extra \$600 a week for four months in addition to state benefits. The stimulus creates a \$500 billion lending program for loans and investments for businesses such as passenger and cargo air carriers, businesses, national security businesses, state and municipalities. The national guard has been activated to help with the coronavirus response, hospitals and contractors will receive funding, and mortgage loans and tenancy evictions are restricted from impacting individuals during this time. \$450 million is set aside for the Emergency Food Assistance Program and funding for the Peace Corps, refugee, and diplomatic programs is included.

### **North Carolina Legislative COVID-19 Response:**

North Carolina has created four working groups from the House Select Committee on COVID-19: [Health Care](#), [Economic Support](#), [Education](#), [Continuity of State Operations](#). Each work group met this week. The Health Care Work Group met to hear the needs and concerns of health care professionals. Several suggestions were made for needed legislation, including the authority to use federal funds to pay for the treatment of uninsured COVID-19 patients. Topics brought up also included needed health care supplies for hospitals, ensuring future clinicians can meet their clinical hours in order to enter the workforce immediately, ensuring that hospitals do not become overwhelmed, and reserving resources for the most severe cases.

The Education Work Group received updates on the three components of the Governor's Executive Order 117 to: 1) ensure affordable child care during the pandemic and especially for critical works; 2) increase access to nutritious food; and 3) build up capacity across the state for remote learning. One resource that was noted is the [interactive map](#) that shows where there are internet providers offering free or low-cost services to families of students.

The Economic Support Work Group met on Wednesday to begin making decisions for North Carolina workers and businesses. Chairs of the working group expressed that North Carolina is in a good position to assist unemployed workers with \$3.9 billion in the unemployment insurance trust fund. There is also \$1.1 billion reserved for natural disasters. The delayed tax date may change the fiscal amounts available but the work group has committed to look into delaying driver's license renewals and possibly delaying state collections and tax audits.

### **Education Resources for Families Affected By COVID-19:**

- [Free educational resources](#) like virtual museum tours, homeschool worksheets, learning apps, databases, multimodal learning activities, cloud platform apps for the blind, deaf, and reading impaired students, audible typing tutors, and other accessibility resources.
- [Google Learn at Home](#): Learning creators have united to create fun, educational activities to complement students' regular learning.
- [Scholastic Learn at Home](#): Daily projects and activities to stimulate critical thinking.
- [Free online drawing lessons](#) by acclaimed illustrators.
- [The National Constitution Center](#): Daily zoom constitutional conversations for high school, middle school, college students.
- [Google Lit Trips](#): provides downloadable files to mark the journey of characters in famous literature on GoogleEarth
- [International Children's Digital Library](#): Provides free digital books from around the world to kids aged 3-13.
- [Chemistry Activities for Kids](#): features chemistry demonstrations, activities, and crafts.

- [3D Brain](#): explains the region functions, functions, case studies, and research.
- [Common Sense Media](#): provides trustworthy reviews on media, education, and technology for kids.

### **Food Resources for Families Affected by COVID-19:**

- [Pick-up and drive-thru school lunch](#) and breakfast meals for students

### **N.C. Bills we are tracking:**

- [H5](#): Close the Medicaid Insurance Gap (see S3)
- [H76](#): School Safety Omnibus
- [H102](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see S245)
- [H121](#): Expunction Related to Raise the Age/No Conviction
- [H234](#): Funds for Child Advocacy Centers
- [H241](#): Education Bond Act of 2019
- [H250](#): Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions
- [H291](#): Continue Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Work Group (SSWG) and Extend Children's Council
- [H297](#): Psychologist Interjurisdictional Compact
- [H434](#): Suicide Risk Ref./Mental Health/Teen Violence
- [H471](#): Reduce Administrative Duplication MH/DD/SAS Providers
- [H555](#): Medicaid Transformation Implementation, the Senate has withdrawn this bill from the calendar and re-referred it to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
- [H580](#): Increase Foster Care Rates/Funds (see S636)
- [H601](#): Funds for NAMI North Carolina, Inc.
- [H613](#): Essential Services for Homeless Youth
- [H655](#): NC Health Care for Working Families, the bill was re-referred to the House Committee on Health, received a favorable committee substitute, and was re-referred to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations.
- [H702](#): Modify Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (see S555)
- [H822](#): Comprehensive Behavioral Health Plan, the bill has been sent to the Senate, passed the 1<sup>st</sup> Senate reading, and has been sent to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
- [H825](#): Strengthen Child Fatality Prevention System: passed first reading and referred to the House Committee on Health.
- [H826](#): Standardized Assessment/Foster Care Pilot
- [H956](#): Funds/Youth Villages and Other Purposes
- [H966](#): 2019 Appropriations Act, this bill was placed on the calendar for January 14, 2020, withdrawn from the calendar and re-referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.

- [S3](#): Close the Medicaid Insurance Gap (see H5)
- [S175](#): Funds/Eliminate NC Pre-K Waitlist
- [S212](#): NC Fast/Early Child/Transformation/ACH Assess., the conference committees have been appointed.
- [S245](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see H102)
- [S251](#): Modernization of Drug Court Programs
- [S361](#): Healthy NC., the Senate failed to concur on the health committee substitution, so the Senate and House have appointed committee conferees for the bill.
- [S382](#): School Psychologist Compensation and Recruitment (see H482)
- [S427](#): Smart Start Funds (see H124)
- [S476](#): Compt-Based Assess. & Mental Health/Teen Viol., after over three months of inactivity, the bill has conference committees appointed in the House and the Senate.
- [S549](#): Child Welfare/Behavioral Health Pilot/Funds
- [S624](#): Guilford County Mental Health Facility /Funds (see H360)
- [S636](#): Increase Foster Care Rates/Funds (see H580)

**N.C. Bills that have been signed into law:**

- [H75](#): School Mental Health Screening Study, presented to the governor and signed into law as Ch. SL 2019-222.
- [S199](#): Child Sex Abuse/Strengthen Laws, the bill was presented to the governor and signed into law on 11/7/19 as Ch. SL 2019 – 245.
- [H301](#): CIP Revisions/Juvenile Code, signed by the governor on 6/21/19 as Ch. SL 2019-33.
- [S413](#): Raise the Age Modifications, signed into law on 8/1/19 as Ch. SL 2019-186.
- [H609](#): Once known as Raise the Age Modifications but now labeled Salary Increases/Adult Correctional Employees, the bill was presented to and signed by the governor as Ch. SL 2019-208.
- [H656](#): Medicaid Changes for Transformation, signed into law by the Governor on 7/4/19 as Ch. SL 2019-81.
- [H1001](#): Raise the Age Funding, ratified, presented to the governor and signed into law on 10/14/19 as Ch. SL 2019-229.

**Upcoming Collaborative Mental Health Meetings:**

Date and Time	Collaborative	Location
April 15, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">NC Child Well Being Transformation Council</a>	Virtual meeting, audio available

### **Federal Bills We are Tracking:**

[S.1172](#): Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers Act: read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[S. 1465](#): Childhood Outcomes Need New Efficient Community Teams: read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

[S. 1642](#): Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[S. 1668](#): Defending Access to Mental Health Care Act: Read twice and referred to the committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[S. 1670](#): Care Across Generations Act: read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[H.R. 1109](#): Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R. 1301](#): Mental Health Telemedicine Expansion Act: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health

[H.R. 1395](#): Youth Mental Health Services Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor

[H.R. 1838](#): Social Security Child Protection Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[H.R. 2702](#): Family First Transition and Support Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[H.R. 2958](#): Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor

[H.R. 3074](#): Continuing Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Care Act: referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R. 3116](#): State Flexibility for Family First Transitions Act: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[H.R. 3438](#): Child Welfare Data Modernization Act: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[H.R. 4025](#): Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

[H.R. 4420](#): Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act: Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support

[H.R. 4428](#): Greater Mental Health Access Act: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health

[H.R. 4602](#): Continuation of Useful Resources to States Act: Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support

[H.R. 4835](#): Supporting Trauma-Informed Education Practices Act: referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor

[H.R. 5569](#): Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act of 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor