

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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HOUSE BILL 921*

Short Title: Post-Adoption Assistance Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander; and Wainwright.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 29, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO EXTEND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE
3 PAYMENTS TO AGE NINETEEN, TO INCREASE VENDOR PAYMENTS FOR
4 POST-ADOPTION SERVICES, AND TO INCREASE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE
5 PAYMENTS IN THE SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTIONS INCENTIVE FUND.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 108A-49(b) reads as rewritten:

8 "(b) Adoption assistance payments for certain adoptive children shall be granted
9 in accordance with the rules of the Social Services Commission to adoptive parents who
10 adopt a child eligible to receive foster care maintenance payments or supplemental
11 security income benefits; provided, that the child cannot be returned to his or her
12 parents; and provided, that the child has special needs which create a financial barrier to
13 adoption. A county department of social services shall pay, at a minimum, the monthly
14 graduated adoption assistance payments for eligible children as set by the General
15 Assembly. A county department of social services may make adoption assistance
16 payments in excess of the monthly graduated rates set by the General Assembly.
17 Adoption assistance payments made under this section shall continue until the child
18 reaches 19 years of age."

19 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
20 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of one million seven hundred
21 forty-three thousand dollars (\$1,743,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the sum of
22 one million seven hundred forty-three thousand dollars (\$1,743,000) for the 2002-2003
23 fiscal year for the costs of implementing Section 1 of this act.

24 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
25 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of three million two hundred
26 sixteen thousand dollars (\$3,216,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the sum of three
27 million two hundred sixteen thousand dollars (\$3,216,000) for the 2002-2003 fiscal year
28 to be allocated for medical vendor payments for medical services not covered by

1 Medicaid or other medical benefits and the sum of three million two hundred sixteen
2 thousand dollars (\$3,216,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the sum of three million
3 two hundred sixteen thousand dollars (\$3,216,000) for the 2002-2003 fiscal year to be
4 allocated for therapeutic vendor payments for the continuation of post-adoption
5 assistance in accordance with eligibility requirements for vendor payments as adopted
6 in rules of the Social Services Commission.

7 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
8 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000)
9 for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the
10 2002-2003 fiscal year to be allocated to the Special Needs Adoptions Incentive Fund
11 enacted in Section 11.16 of S.L. 2000-67 to continue providing assistance for the
12 adoption of certain children.

13 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.