

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 1229
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/3/20
Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee Substitute Adopted 6/11/20

Short Title: UI Program Integrity/Temp. ABAWD Time Waivers. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 27, 2020

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY TO STRENGTHEN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO SEEK A TEMPORARY WAIVER FROM THE TIME LIMITS FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES PROGRAM IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND PREVENTING CERTAIN PAYMENTS TO PRECINCT OFFICIALS FROM REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The State Controller shall transfer the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year from the Coronavirus Relief Reserve created in Section 2.1 of S.L. 2020-4 to the General Fund, Coronavirus Relief Fund, established in Section 2.2 of that act.

SECTION 1.(b) There is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security (DES), the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to be used to contract and utilize the subject matter expertise and technical infrastructure available through existing Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) public-private partnerships, as follows:

- (1) To enhance existing unemployment insurance (UI) fraud and compliance alerting capability to prevent and detect cybersecurity attacks on DES information technology assets and resources during the pandemic.
- (2) To provide DES with COVID-19 related program fraud detection analytics and information reporting.
- (3) To provide pandemic UI assistance documentation analysis.
- (4) To enhance economic modeling for underground economy analysis with COVID-19 claims.

SECTION 1.(c) All contractual and interagency agreements necessary to implement this section shall be executed within 30 days of this act becoming law. These funds shall be expended only as allowed under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, P.L. 116-136. The requirements and limitations set forth in Part I of S.L. 2020-4 shall apply to the funds appropriated by this section. The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) shall include the funds transferred and appropriated under this section in the report



1 required under Section 1.7 of S.L. 2020-4, and DES shall provide OSBM with the information
2 deemed necessary by OSBM to accomplish this reporting requirement.

3 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding G.S. 108A-51.1, the Department of Health and
4 Human Services may seek a temporary waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
5 for time limits established by federal law for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD)
6 participating in the Food and Nutrition Services Program in this State.

7 **SECTION 2.1.** Payments received by precinct officials and assistants under
8 G.S. 163-46, for work performed during the period from September 1, 2020, until November 5,
9 2020, do not affect the computation of the individual's partial weekly benefit under
10 G.S. 96-14.2(b).

11 **SECTION 3.** The provisions of the State Budget Act, Chapter 143C of the General
12 Statutes, are reenacted and shall remain in full force and effect and are incorporated in this act
13 by reference.

14 **SECTION 4.** Except where expressly repealed or amended by this act, the provisions
15 of any other legislation enacted during the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly
16 expressly appropriating funds to an agency, a department, or an institution covered under this act
17 shall remain in effect.

18 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law, with Section 2 expiring one
19 year after that date.