

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS55031-LUa-86B

Short Title: Child Development Associate Apprentice Pilot. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Robinson, Batch, and Lowe (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A CHILD DEVELOPMENT
3 ASSOCIATE APPRENTICESHIP PILOT PROGRAM.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
6 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), the
7 sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring funds for each year of the
8 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to establish a two-year child development associate apprenticeship
9 pilot program. The Division shall establish the pilot program to assist in the shortage of qualified
10 early childhood educators across the State by providing participants in the pilot with (i)
11 on-the-job learning and coursework aligned with the knowledge and competencies required to be
12 fully proficient employees, (ii) specialized training with a one-on-one mentor, and (iii)
13 classroom-based, related technical instruction that may result in college credit. The Division shall
14 implement the pilot program in at least two child development centers, one of which shall be
15 located in the Piedmont region of the State and one of which shall be located in the Eastern region
16 of the State, with the intent to establish best practices that can be modeled statewide. In
17 developing the pilot program, the Division shall consider coordinating with the North Carolina
18 Partnership for Children, Inc., to implement the pilot program. The Division shall submit
19 progress reports to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by
20 December 31 of each year the pilot program is in effect, with a final report by December 31,
21 2023, on the outcomes of educators participating in the pilot program.

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

