

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2017**

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**SENATE BILL 280**

Short Title: Early Literacy Initiative/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hise (Primary Sponsor); Chaudhuri, J. Jackson, Rabin, Robinson, and Waddell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 16, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR EARLY LITERACY INITIATIVES.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
5 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of  
6 twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to be allocated to the North  
7 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., to develop and implement a comprehensive early  
8 literacy initiative. Funds allocated to the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., pursuant  
9 to this section shall be used as follows:

- 10 (1) Seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) to increase access to Dolly Parton's  
11 Imagination Library, an early literacy program that mails age-appropriate  
12 books to registered children on a monthly basis. Access to the program shall  
13 be statewide.  
14 (2) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to pilot Family Connects, a nurse home  
15 visiting program for all parents of newborns. The program shall be piloted in  
16 six counties, including two counties with less than 500 births annually, two  
17 counties with 500 to 2,000 births annually, and two counties with greater  
18 than 2,000 births annually, with priority in counties that have already  
19 implemented the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

20 **SECTION 1.(b)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., may use up to  
21 two percent (2%) of the funds for program evaluation. Funds appropriated under this section  
22 shall not be subject to the legislative requirements of the total amount allocated to the North  
23 Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., nor shall these funds be subject to the child care  
24 services funding requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(b), child care subsidy expansion  
25 requirements under G.S. 143B-168.15(g), or the match requirements currently under Section  
26 12B.7(d) of S.L. 2015-241.

27 **SECTION 1.(c)** The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall report on  
28 the success of the comprehensive early literacy initiative, including any recommendations, to  
29 the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by March 1, 2018.  
30 The report shall include participation rates for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

31 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017.

