A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILD WELL-BEING, TO ESTABLISH A YOUTH
SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO EXPAND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN
SPORTS AND ENCOURAGE REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTO ADULTHOOD;
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Whereas, childhood sports participation can encourage people to be physically active
into adulthood; and

Whereas, childhood sports participation can help reduce obesity, diabetes, and other
health-related problems while also leveling the playing field so that every child has the
opportunity to participate in youth sports regardless of their socioeconomic background; and

Whereas, sports participation can strongly impact the lives of youth and communities
to help prevent youth violence and reduce recidivism; and

Whereas, juvenile crime rates are consistently reduced in neighborhoods where
sports-based youth development programs enrich the lives of at-risk youth; Now, therefore,
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
Health and Human Services, Division of Family and Child Well-Being, the sum of five million
dollars ($5,000,000) in recurring funds to establish and administer a Youth Sports Scholarship
Program to provide scholarships to families of low socioeconomic status for the purpose of
expanding youth participation in sports and encouraging youth to engage in regular physical
activity into adulthood. In administering the scholarship program authorized by this section, the
Division of Family and Child Well-Being is subject to the following requirements and
limitations:

1. The scholarships shall be made available to families whose total income is at
or below two hundred percent (200%) of the current federal poverty level.

2. The amount of any scholarship awarded to an eligible family shall not exceed
one thousand dollars ($1,000) per household.

3. The Division of Family and Child Well-Being shall develop a process to
ensure that scholarship funds are used only for the following purposes:
   a. To purchase sports equipment.
   b. To pay for costs and fees associated with youth participation in sports
      lessons, camps, leagues, and other sports activities.
   c. To pay for any other related expenses approved by the Division of
      Family and Child Well-Being that serve the purpose of expanding...
youth participation in sports or encouraging youth to engage in regular
daily physical activity.

(4) The Division of Family and Child Well-Being may use up to five percent (5%) of the funds appropriated in this section for administrative purposes.

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2022.