



2020 Legislative Session Recap

Expand Accessible, Affordable High-Speed Broadband

- **NC Legislature's First CARES Relief Package Broadband Allocations**
 - *Signed into law May 4, 2020*
 - \$250,000 to the Department of Information Technology for the acquisition of Wi-Fi deployment devices, such as hot spots.
 - \$9 million to supplement the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) broadband deployment grant program.
- **H387, Growing G.R.E.A.T bill, signed into law October 14, 2019**
 - \$15 million each year for 10 years to the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) (H387) provides sustainable funding for the broadband grant program. Eligibility has also been extended to tier two counties, allowing more residents to access the needed services.
- **Broadband COVID-19 Relief Packages Provisions:**
 - **[H1105, The Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0](#)**
 - *Signed into law September 4, 2020*
 - \$21 million for community and home broadband access points for students.
 - \$39 million for the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) broadband incentive grant program.
 - **[S704, COVID-19 Recovery Act](#)**
 - *Signed into law May 4, 2020*
 - \$9 million to supplement the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) broadband deployment grant program.
 - \$250,000 to the Department of Information Technology for the acquisition of Wi-Fi deployment devices, such as hot spots.

Stabilize and Transform Rural Health

- **[S361, Healthy NC](#)**
 - *Signed into law July 1, 2020*
 - Filed in the 2019 session but stalled shortly after conferees were appointed and resurfaced Wednesday, June 24, during House session.
 - In its original form last year, it was intended to amend the Certificate of Need (CON) statutes, however, it underwent a bit of a makeover and now contains eight parts, many of which include previous standalone bills, with CON now removed.
 - **Bill components:** a.) Enacts the Psychology Inter-jurisdictional Licensure Compact (PSYPACT). b.) Allows marriage and family therapists to conduct the first-level exam for an involuntary commitment. c.) Eliminates redundancy in adult care home inspections. d.) Modifies STEP therapy protocols. e.) Amends telehealth coverage provisions for Medicaid and private insurance.

- **COVID-19 Relief Packages Provisions**

- **S704, COVID-19 Recovery Act**

- *Signed into law May 4, 2020*
- \$65 million to establish a Rural Hospitals Relief fund for rural hospitals gravely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$6 million to Campbell University's School of Osteopathic Medicine for a rural-focused primary care program.
- \$20 million in flexible funds for local health departments and rural health care providers.
- \$50 million in the form of grants for rural health care providers outside of the hospital to enhance telehealth capabilities, transportation, and more.
- \$1.8 million to the Old North State Medical Society to target rural and minority communities on health education outreach initiatives.
- \$2.5 million for the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program.

- **H1023, Coronavirus Relief Fund/Additions & Revisions**

- *Signed into law July 1, 2020*
- \$2.6 million for the statewide health information exchange dashboard, NC HealthConnex
- \$2.5 million to any county designated as a development Tier Two area, with a population of less than 150,000, that has a hospital located within its borders that provided care to patients in North Carolina related to the COVID-19 pandemic, is not affiliated with a university health system, and didn't file bankruptcy within the last five months.

- **H1105, The Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0**

- *Signed into law September 4, 2020*
- \$500,000 for COVID-19-related activities for Southern Regional Area Health Education Center.
- \$500,000 for East Carolina University in partnership with the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy to research on how economic hardships impact clinical and health outcomes.
- \$20 million for the Provider Relief Fund to reimburse healthcare practitioners who treat the uninsured.
- \$25 million to the North Carolina Medical Society for independent medical practices with financial needs as a result of COVID-19.
- \$10,000 to Watauga County for portable broadband kits for local health departments to aid in mobile COVID-19 testing.
- \$12.4 million for the North Carolina Association for Free and Charitable Clinics.
- \$6.5 million to MedAssist for prescription assistance for indigent and uninsured populations.

Invest in Stronger Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Systems

- **COVID-19 Relief Packages Provisions**

- **S704, COVID-19 Recovery**

- *Signed into law May 4, 2020*
- \$125 million for the Rapid Recovery Small Business Bridge Loan Program in partnership with Golden LEAF Foundation.
- \$300,000 for the creation of the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Reserve, which will assist local government entities experiencing revenue shortfalls.

- **H1023, Coronavirus Relief Fund/Additions & Revisions**

- *Signed into law July 1, 2020*
- \$15 million as a stimulus investment in Visit North Carolina's marketing budget to be used for developing educational materials related to COVID-19 on how to travel safely while practicing social distancing.
- \$750,000 to the Department of Information Technology, Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) to develop a COVID-19 economic analytics and reporting tool to provide insight into how state and federal assistance is impacting North Carolina businesses.

- \$15 million to the Department of Commerce for grants awarded by the Economic Investment Committee.
- **H1105, The Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0**
 - *Signed into law September 4, 2020*
 - In May, the NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loan program received an appropriation from the General Assembly to support its lending to small businesses affected by COVID-19. In H1105, a portion of the program's initial appropriation (\$50 million) it received in the summer will be reallocated to support other small business aid programs, resulting in the overall appropriation being modified from \$125 million to \$75 million. (Note: The NC Rural Center is the administrator of the NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loan program, in partnership with the Golden LEAF Foundation and a statewide network of nonprofit lending organizations.)
 - \$60.5 million to the Job Retention Grant Program for small businesses that were able to sustain their workforce during the pandemic.
 - \$2 million to the Carolina Small Business Development Fund for small businesses adversely affected by COVID-19.
 - \$3 million in grant funding for construction businesses to be spent on COVID-19 transmission mitigation efforts.
 - \$20 million for meat and seafood processing plants for personal protective equipment and workforce development.
 - Delayed collection of fees, fines, and accrued interest payments to state agencies.

Sustainable and Affordable Housing

- **H1208, Funding for Workforce Housing Loan Program**
 - *Signed into law June 19, 2020*
 - The Workforce Housing Loan Program to receive an appropriation of \$20 million for the purpose of providing loans to qualifying low-income housing development construction or substantial rehabilitation projects statewide.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

- **H1087, Water/Wastewater Public Enterprise Reform**
 - *Signed into law July 1, 2020*
 - A \$9 million infusion into the Viable Utility Fund to aid communities with distressed water and wastewater systems to repair, replace, and improve their waste water infrastructure.

Disaster Relief and Recovery

- **H1105, The Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0**
 - *Signed into law September 4, 2020*
 - \$24 million to Alleghany County for earthquake recovery.
 - \$600,000 toward Alleghany County courthouse repairs due to damages caused by the recent earthquake.
 - \$27 million for Hurricane Florence recovery efforts.
 - \$13.2 million for Hurricanes Dorian and Matthew recovery efforts.
 - \$3.5 million for Hurricane Isaias recovery efforts.