

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021**

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**HOUSE BILL 658
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/4/21**

Short Title: Deploy Child Welfare & Aging Component/NCFAST. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 26, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
3 HUMAN SERVICES TO BEGIN DEPLOYMENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA
4 FAMILIES ACCESSING SERVICES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY (NC FAST) CASE
5 MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONALITY FOR THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AND
6 AGING AND ADULT SERVICES' PROGRAMS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
7 THAT PURPOSE.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services (Department),
10 Division of Social Services (Division), shall resume deployment of the North Carolina Families
11 Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) system as it relates to case management
12 functionality for the child welfare system and aging and adult services' programs. The Division
13 shall deploy the child welfare case management component of the NC FAST system statewide
14 before July 1, 2022, as recommended in the Department of Health and Human Services' "Child
15 Welfare Request for Information and Child Welfare Case Management Legislative Report" dated
16 September 14, 2020, and the Program Evaluation Division's Report, "NC FAST Child Welfare
17 Case Management Software Demonstrates Adequate Functionality but Poor Usability," dated
18 June 12, 2020.

19 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Division shall enter into a contract to augment and enhance the
20 child welfare case management component of the NC FAST system before January 1, 2022. The
21 contract shall align with the recommendations developed by the Executive Advisory Committee
22 within the Department, with favorable consideration given to software currently deployed by
23 county departments of social services.

24 **SECTION 1.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

25 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
26 Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, the sum of seventeen million two
27 hundred sixty-two thousand eight hundred eighty-two dollars (\$17,262,882) in nonrecurring
28 funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to implement the provisions of Section 1 of this act.

29 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective July 1, 2021.

