

NCGA COVID-19 BILL SUMMARIES

MAY 2020

SB704 COVID-19 Recovery Act (Policy Provisions)

- 1) By July 1, 2020, DHHS and DPS must submit a state plan for the State Strategic Stockpile of personal protective equipment and testing supplies for public health emergencies.
- 2) Dentists are allowed to administer COVID-19 diagnostic and antibody tests if the tests have been approved for emergency use by the FDA.
- 3) In the event a vaccine is approved for COVID-19 and the General Assembly is not in session, the State Health Director may petition to allow pharmacists to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 4) NC AHEC shall conduct a study on pandemic health care workforce.
- 5) Liability protections for emergency or disaster treatment for health care facilities and providers for COVID-19 and COVID-19 related care.
- 6) If a COVID-19 diagnostic or antibody test is performed prior to a procedure, the test results shall be reported to the Commission for Public Health.
- 7) The deadline for providers to connect to the HIE is now October 1, 2021 (previously June 1, 2020).
- 8) DHHS and DHSR shall suspend any annual inspections during the public health emergency for COVID-19 unless serious injury or death was at risk or this inspection was directed by CMS.
- 9) Telehealth can be used for the first and second examination for IVC patients during the emergency and 30 days after the Governor's Executive Order expires.
- 10) The General Assembly urges CMS to provide telehealth services through audio-only communication.
- 11) The requirement for Health Care Powers of Attorney and Advanced Directives for Natural Death that the principal's signature be executed in the presence of two witnesses is waived as long as the document is signed by the principal and properly acknowledged by a notary. This is retroactive to March 10, 2020 and will expire on August 1, 2020.
- 12) Essential businesses are granted civil liability immunity for injuries or death resulting from customers or employees contracting COVID-19 at the business.
- 13) The State Treasurer with the approval of his board of trustees can defer premium of debt payment for a State Health Plan beneficiary during a state of disaster or state of emergency.

HB1043 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act (Appropriations Provisions)

- 1) OSBM will receive \$50M for purchase of PPE and supplies. Of that \$50M, 50% of the funds will go towards North Carolina Healthcare Association for PPE for its membership.
- 2) Funds to Wake Forest Baptist Health, UNC Chapel Hill, Duke University School of Medicine, Brody School of Medicine and Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine for COVID-related research, testing and vaccine development.
- 3) DHHS will receive \$20M to support local health departments, rural health providers, the State Lab, and behavioral health and crisis support.
- 5) DHHS will receive \$25M for testing, tracking and tracing of COVID-19. DHHS will not receive these funds until the following requirements are met: (1) DHHS collects the number of positive and negative COVID-19 tests and reports them online, (2) DHHS post online cost per test of any vendor contracted with DHHS to perform tests, (3) DHHS shall report recovery rates, (4) DHHS shall report hospital discharges along with underlying health conditions, and (5) DHHS shall provide comprehensive reporting on COVID deaths, including the percentage of patients with

NCGA COVID-19 BILL SUMMARIES

MAY 2020

severe comorbidities prior to be diagnosed with COVID-19 and whether these deaths are solely classified as deaths due to COVID-19.

- 6) DHHS will receive \$20M for behavioral health and crisis centers for the pandemic, and of those funds, \$12.6M will be distributed to each LME/MCO.
- 7) DHHS will receive \$19M for a variety of items including funds for residential settings for COVID patients who are experiencing homelessness and costs to expand NCCARE360.
- 8) OSBM will allocate \$65M to rural hospitals. Rural hospital is defined by hospitals who are designated as critical access, located in tier 1 county or located in a tier 2 county with a population of less than 150,000. Each CAH hospital will automatically receive \$350K and other rural hospitals automatically will receive \$250k. The remainder of the funds will be distributed based on a pro rata share of 2018 hospital costs. These dollars have to be used for COVID-related costs.
- 9) OSBM will establish a COVID-19 Teaching Hospital Fund and appropriate \$15M to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Duke University Hospital, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Medical Center, Vidant Medical Center and Central Harnett Hospital for COVID-related costs.
- 10) OSBM will establish a COVID-19 General Hospitals Relief Fund and appropriate \$15M to hospitals that are not eligible for the two funds listed in 8 and 9. These funds are for COVID related costs.
- 11) DHB can reimburse providers for uninsured patients who get a COVID-19 test.
- 12) All Medicaid providers will receive a 5% base rate increase from March 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021.
- 13) \$300M in a fund for local governments—not sure if the feds will allow to use to replace revenue
- 14) Additional \$150M for counties who did not receive money from the CARES Act
- 15) Funding to increase internet connectivity for students who do not have access to WIFI
- 16) Funding for electronic devices for students who do not have access to them
- 17) \$50M to DHHS for rural and underserved communities for health provider grants, Medicaid assistance for rural hardship grants, enhanced telehealth services, critical services transportation, health care security for uninsured, and related items.
- 18) \$5M for NC Association of Free and Charitable Clinics for cost of eligible health services provided during the COVID-19 emergency
- 19) \$5M to the NC Community Health Centers Association for cost of eligible health services provided during the COVID-19 emergency.
- 20) \$1.8M to Old North State Medical Society for rural and African American communities to address COVID-19 disparities.
- 21) \$125M for Golden LEAF for small business loan assistance.