## **FISCAL UPDATE Article**

Fiscal Services Division March 27, 2020



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## **NORTH CAROLINA — COVID-19 — 3/27/2020**

**North Carolina Legislature.** The North Carolina legislature is in recess until April 28, 2020; however, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper intends to call a special session to address unemployment benefit changes related to COVID-19. The state's Unemployment Trust Fund currently has a balance of \$3.900 billion. North Carolina has one of the lowest numbers of maximum weeks for receipt of unemployment benefits in the country, at 12 weeks in 1 calendar year.

**Public Restrictions.** K-12 public schools in the state are closed until May 15, 2020. Mass gatherings of over 50 people are banned, and personal care and personal grooming businesses are closed through April 24, 2020. Retail operations can continue, but food establishments are limited to drive-through, delivery, and carryout only. Several counties have issued stay-at-home orders.

**Child Care Services.** The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has partnered with the North Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral Council to launch a hotline to provide child care options for children of critical workers who do not have access to typical care due to closures related to COVID-19.

**Confirmed Cases.** The state currently has 763 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Of these cases, there have been 77 hospitalizations and 3 deaths.

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