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ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE COLLEGE EDUCATION

SECTION 11.4.(a) Guarantee of No In-State Tuition Increase for Standard College Term. – Article 14 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 116-143.9. Fixed tuition payment.

(a) There is established the fixed tuition payment program. The rate of tuition of any freshman or transfer undergraduate student who is admitted to any constituent institution of The University of North Carolina and deemed to be a North Carolina resident for purposes of tuition shall be guaranteed as provided by this section. The program shall have the following components:

- (1) A guarantee that the rate of tuition approved by either the Board of Governors or the Board of Trustees of the constituent institution will remain constant or decrease during the tuition period.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the tuition period shall be (i) eight consecutive academic semesters for a student seeking a baccalaureate degree in a four-year program or 10 consecutive academic semesters for a student seeking a baccalaureate degree in a program officially designated by the Board of Governors as a five-year program, not including any summer sessions, or (ii) the appropriate balance of a designated program length after making the proper adjustments for a student who transfers to the constituent institution.
- (3) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the student must remain enrolled continuously at the constituent institution during the entire tuition period.
- (4) At the end of the tuition period, the cost of tuition for any additional academic semesters reverts to the amount of the current tuition for that constituent institution and a tuition surcharge imposed under G.S. 116-143.7, if applicable.

(b) The tuition period may be tolled if the student is able to demonstrate a substantial disruption or interruption in the student's pursuit of a degree as provided in G.S. 116-143.7(c).

(c) The Board of Governors shall adopt the policies needed to implement this section and shall also determine what the fixed tuition rates and the tuition periods shall be for undergraduate transfer students who are North Carolina residents for purposes of tuition."

47 **SECTION 11.4.(a1)** Subsection (a) of this section is effective when it becomes law
48 and beginning with the 2016 fall academic semester, applies to the rate of tuition for freshmen and
49 transfer students who enroll at a constituent institution and to the rate of tuition for freshmen and
50 transfer students who enroll at a constituent institution in subsequent academic semesters.

1 **SECTION 11.4.(b)** Cap on Student Fees. – Article 14 of Chapter 116 of the General
2 Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **"§ 116-143.10. Cap on student fees.**

4 Notwithstanding G.S. 116-143 and G.S. 116-11(7), the Board of Governors of The University
5 of North Carolina and the Board of Trustees at each constituent institution may increase the
6 cumulative total of all undergraduate student fees approved by either the Board of Governors or
7 the Board of Trustees by no more than three percent (3%) per academic year."

8 **SECTION 11.4.(b1)** Subsection (b) of this section is effective when it becomes law
9 and applies beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year. The student fees charged for the
10 2016-2017 academic year shall be the baseline used to determine the amount of the three percent
11 (3%) increase in student fees that is permissible for the 2017-2018 academic year.

12 **SECTION 11.4.(c)** NC Promise Tuition Plan and "Buy Down." – Article 14 of
13 Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

14 **"§ 116-143.11. NC Promise Tuition Plan; State "buy down" of certain financial obligations.**

15 (a) The NC Promise Tuition Plan shall be established and implemented as provided by this
16 section. Notwithstanding G.S. 116-143 and G.S. 116-11(7), the Board of Governors of The
17 University of North Carolina shall set the rate of undergraduate tuition for Elizabeth City State
18 University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Western Carolina University as
19 follows: beginning with the 2018 fall academic semester, the rate of tuition for students deemed to
20 be North Carolina residents for purposes of tuition shall be five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per
21 academic semester and the rate of tuition for nonresident students shall be two thousand five
22 hundred dollars (\$2,500) per academic semester.

23 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State shall "buy down" the amount of
24 any financial obligation resulting from the established tuition rate that may be incurred by
25 Elizabeth City State University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Western
26 Carolina University as provided by this subsection. Beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the
27 Director of the Budget shall determine each fiscal year, based on information provided by the
28 Board of Governors and the Chancellor of each constituent institution, the amount required to
29 offset the forgone tuition receipts at each of the three institutions as a result of the tuition rate
30 established by this section. The Director of the Budget shall authorize an increase in the base
31 budget of The University of North Carolina of up to forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) each fiscal
32 year to cover the cost of the "buy down" that fiscal year and shall allocate the appropriate sum to
33 each constituent institution. Any increase in the base budget authorized pursuant to this subsection
34 shall not be included in the calculation of projected enrollment growth under G.S. 116-30.7.

35 (c) When implementing the provisions of this section, the Board of Governors shall give
36 due consideration to maintaining the unique historical character of each institution, including
37 service to students who are first generation, college-going, economically disadvantaged, or
38 minority."

39 **SECTION 11.4.(c1)** By January 16, 2017, the Board of Governors shall develop and
40 implement a marketing strategy utilizing advertising means with historically successful results that
41 is designed to increase enrollment at Elizabeth City State University and to effectively market the
42 NC Promise Tuition Plan at that campus. Of the funds appropriated by this act to the Board of
43 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Board of
44 Governors may use a sum of up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to accomplish
45 the purpose provided in this subsection.

46 **SECTION 11.4.(c2)** G.S. 116-144 reads as rewritten:

47 **"§ 116-144. Higher tuition to be charged nonresidents.**

48 The Unless provided otherwise by law, the Board of Governors shall fix the tuition and
49 required fees charged nonresidents of North Carolina who attend the institutions enumerated in
50 G.S. 116-4 at rates higher than the rates charged residents of North Carolina and comparable to the
51 rates charged nonresident students by comparable public institutions nationwide, except that a

1 person who serves as a graduate teaching assistant or graduate research assistant or in a similar
2 instructional or research assignment and is at the same time enrolled as a graduate student in the
3 same institution may, in the discretion of the Board of Governors, be charged a lower rate fixed by
4 the Board, provided the rate is not lower than the North Carolina resident rate."

5 **SECTION 11.4.(d)** Evaluation of Admission Cap on Nonresident Students Entering
6 the Freshman Class of a Constituent Institution. – The Board of Governors shall consider what
7 effect, if any, the elimination of or an increase in the current cap of eighteen percent (18%) on the
8 enrollment of nonresident students entering the freshman class at the constituent institutions listed
9 in subsection (d1) of this section may have regarding the student applications to those institutions.
10 If the Board of Governors determines that eliminating or increasing such cap may increase the
11 number, academic strength, and diversity of student applications at those institutions, then the
12 Board of Governors may, in its discretion, adopt a policy that eliminates or establishes a different
13 cap and the period of time for which the modification of the cap shall be implemented at those
14 institutions.

15 **SECTION 11.4.(d1)** Subsection (d) of this section applies only to Elizabeth City State
16 University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Western Carolina University.

17 **SECTION 11.4.(e)** Establish Merit Scholarships at North Carolina Agricultural and
18 Technical State University and North Carolina Central University. – Chapter 116 of the General
19 Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

20 "Article 35.

21 "Cheatham-White Scholarships.

22 **"§ 116-290. Cheatham-White Scholarships; establishment and purpose; benefits.**

23 (a) Scholarships Established; Purpose. – The Cheatham-White Scholarships are
24 established as a merit scholarship program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State
25 University and at North Carolina Central University. The purpose of the scholarships is to provide
26 an outstanding educational experience for students who are exceptional scholars, versatile and
27 well-rounded individuals with a broad range of interests, and who are accomplished and proficient
28 in areas of both the arts and the sciences. They must also demonstrate leadership potential and a
29 strong commitment to service.

30 (b) Scholarship Benefits. – Each scholarship is a fully funded four-year scholarship that
31 covers the cost of all of the following: full tuition, student fees, housing, meals, textbooks, a
32 laptop, supplies, travel, and personal expenses. Each scholarship also provides four summers of
33 fully funded enrichment and networking opportunities that may include international travel and
34 study.

35 (c) Number of Scholarships Awarded. – Up to 50 scholarships, 40 for resident students
36 and 10 for nonresident students, may be awarded each academic year to students admitted to North
37 Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Up to 50 scholarships, 40 for resident
38 students and 10 for nonresident students, may be awarded each academic year to students admitted
39 to North Carolina Central University.

40 **"§ 116-291. Cheatham-White Scholarships; fund established; administration of fund.**

41 (a) Fund Established. – There is established the Cheatham-White Scholarships Fund to be
42 used to fund scholarships awarded pursuant to this Article. Both private and public funds may be
43 solicited in the creation of the fund.

44 (b) Matching Funds. – The funds appropriated each fiscal year to the Cheatham-White
45 Scholarships Fund shall be matched by non-State funds and disbursed pursuant to G.S. 143C-4-5.

46 (c) Administration of Fund. – The University of North Carolina General Administration
47 shall administer the Cheatham-White Scholarships Fund and the Cheatham-White Scholarships
48 program.

49 **"§ 116-292. Cheatham-White Scholarships; eligibility and selection criteria.**

50 (a) Eligibility. – To be eligible to be nominated as a potential candidate for a
51 Cheatham-White Scholarship, a person must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- 1 (1) Be a competitive applicant for admission as a freshman in the fall semester into
- 2 a baccalaureate program at either North Carolina Agricultural and Technical
- 3 State University or North Carolina Central University.
- 4 (2) Be a United States citizen or permanent resident.
- 5 (3) Be on course to graduate from high school in the spring semester prior to
- 6 college admission.

7 (b) Selection Criteria. – Candidates for Cheatham-White Scholarships shall be selected on
 8 the basis of academic merit, honorable character, outstanding leadership potential, and a
 9 demonstrable commitment to service. Financial need shall not be a consideration.

10 **§ 116-293. Cheatham-White Scholarships; school nomination of candidates.**

11 All North Carolina high schools are eligible to nominate a student to be considered as a
 12 candidate for a Cheatham-White Scholarship. For purposes of this section, a high school includes
 13 a public school under the direction of a local board of education, a charter school, a regional
 14 school, a high school operated as part of The University of North Carolina, a school operated by
 15 the Department of Health and Human Services, a school operated by the State Board of Education,
 16 or a nonpublic school regulated under Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

17 The number of nominees from each school is determined by the size of the senior class as
 18 follows:

- 19 (1) Up to 199 seniors 2 nominees.
- 20 (2) 200-399 seniors 3 nominees.
- 21 (3) 400-499 seniors 4 nominees.
- 22 (4) 500 or more seniors 5 nominees.

23 **§ 116-294. Cheatham-White Scholarships; administration of scholarships.**

24 The University of North Carolina General Administration shall administer the
 25 Cheatham-White Scholarships, in consultation and collaboration with North Carolina Agricultural
 26 and Technical State University and North Carolina Central University, pursuant to policies
 27 adopted by the Board of Trustees of both constituent institutions. As part of its administrative
 28 responsibilities, The University of North Carolina General Administration, in consultation and
 29 collaboration with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and North Carolina
 30 Central University, shall do all of the following:

- 31 (1) Design and implement an application and school nomination process to be used
 32 to identify potential scholarship candidates and a process for awarding the
 33 scholarships.
- 34 (2) Develop a direct nomination process, in addition to the school nomination
 35 process, that allows a student to nominate himself or herself to be considered as
 36 a candidate for the scholarship in certain circumstances.
- 37 (3) Define and describe more fully the selection criteria to be considered when
 38 choosing a scholarship candidate and recipient.
- 39 (4) Identify the parties that will (i) evaluate scholarship applications and
 40 nominations and (ii) determine which candidates shall be awarded scholarships.
- 41 (5) Design the framework and add the necessary substantive detail for the
 42 scholarship program, including courses of study that will be available, summer
 43 enrichment programs, and other extraordinary educational opportunities, and
 44 oversee its implementation.
- 45 (6) Establish a mentoring and networking system for scholarship recipients.
- 46 (7) Administer the Cheatham-White Scholarships Fund.
- 47 (8) Establish a Cheatham-White Scholarships alumni association and network.
- 48 (9) Any other function necessary for the successful implementation of the
 49 Cheatham-White Scholarships program and administration of the
 50 Cheatham-White Scholarships Fund."

1 **SECTION 11.4.(e1)** G.S. 116-291, as enacted by subsection (e) of this section,
2 becomes effective July 1, 2016. The remainder of subsection (e) of this section becomes effective
3 beginning with the 2017 fall academic semester so that students may be nominated for the
4 scholarship during the 2017-2018 academic year, and recipients of the scholarship may enroll to
5 begin a course of study at the constituent institution beginning with the 2018 fall academic
6 semester.

7 **SECTION 11.4.(f)** Scope. – Subsections (a) through (d) of this section do not apply to
8 high schools governed by The University of North Carolina General Administration.

9 **SECTION 11.4.(f1)** Effective Date. – Except as provided otherwise, this section is
10 effective when it becomes law and applies to the 2016 fall academic semester and each subsequent
11 academic semester.

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