

By Senator Cowin

11-31-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nurses; providing an
3 appropriation to the Department of Health;
4 requiring private match of appropriated funds;
5 providing for grants to hospitals for nurse
6 recruitment and retention; providing for rules;
7 providing eligibility criteria; providing an
8 effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. (1) The sum of \$1 million is appropriated
13 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health.
14 Moneys in this appropriation shall be used by that department
15 to make grants to local hospitals for nurse retention and
16 out-of-state recruitment activities during the 2002-2003
17 fiscal year. These moneys are subject to a one-for-one match
18 from sources other than the government of this state or one of
19 its political subdivisions. Moneys not matched by September
20 30, 2002, revert to the General Revenue Fund.

21 (2) The Department of Health shall accept requests for
22 grants under this act beginning July 1, 2002. The department
23 shall determine grant amounts beginning October 1, 2002, once
24 the amount of the appropriation in subsection (1) which has
25 been matched by additional moneys is determined and the
26 department can determine the amount of grant moneys available.

27 (3) The department shall by rule adopt criteria for
28 grant awards. In addition to other criteria, the department
29 shall require that a hospital have experienced an average
30 vacancy rate among nursing positions during the preceding 12
31 months of 10 percent or more. If the amount available for

1 distribution is less than the aggregate amount of requests
2 that meet the department's criteria, the department shall make
3 grants pro rata.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Appropriates \$1 million to the Department of Health. Any
9 portion of the appropriation not matched one-for-one by
10 private funds by September 30, 2002, reverts to general
11 revenue. Of the amount thus available, the department
12 will make grants to local hospitals having the greatest
13 difficulty in retaining nurses to be used for nurse
14 recruitment and retention.

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