

By the Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care; and
Senator Cowin

317-771-02

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 not-for-profit hospitals for nurse
16 retention and out-of-state recruitment activities during the
17 2002-2003 fiscal year. These moneys are subject to a
18 one-for-one match from sources other than the government of
19 this state or one of its political subdivisions. Moneys not
20 matched by September 30, 2002, revert to the General Revenue
21 Fund.

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

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

1 months of 20 percent or more. If the amount available for
2 distribution is less than the aggregate amount of requests
3 that meet the department's criteria, the department shall make
4 grants pro rata.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
6 law.

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8 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
10 Senate Bill 216

11 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 216 limits awarding of
12 grants for nurse retention and out-of-state recruitment
13 activities to not-for-profit hospitals. The committee
14 substitute revises the eligibility criteria for hospitals to
15 receive grants for nurse recruitment to those hospitals that
16 have had a vacancy rate among nursing positions of 20 percent
17 or more during the preceding 12 months. The revised effective
18 date of the committee substitute is upon becoming a law.
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