



HB 0991

2003

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to nurses; amending s. 121.091, F.S.;
 increasing the period of time which members of the Florida
 Retirement System who are employed as registered nurses
 may participate in the DROP; providing a statement of
 proper and legitimate state purpose; providing an
 appropriation to the Department of Health; requiring
 private match of appropriated funds; providing for grants
 to hospitals for nurse recruitment and retention;
 providing for rules; providing eligibility criteria;
 amending s. 464.009, F.S.; requiring applicants for
 nursing licensure by endorsement to demonstrate the
 ability to communicate in the English language; amending
 s. 1009.66, F.S.; providing that applicant awards under
 the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program shall be on a
 first-come, first-served basis; providing an effective
 date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (13) of section 121.091, Florida
 Statutes, is amended to read:

121.091 Benefits payable under the system.--Benefits may
 not be paid under this section unless the member has terminated
 employment as provided in s. 121.021(39)(a) or begun
 participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program as
 provided in subsection (13), and a proper application has been
 filed in the manner prescribed by the department. The department
 may cancel an application for retirement benefits when the
 member or beneficiary fails to timely provide the information



HB 0991

2003

31 and documents required by this chapter and the department's
32 rules. The department shall adopt rules establishing procedures
33 for application for retirement benefits and for the cancellation
34 of such application when the required information or documents
35 are not received.

36 (13) DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM.--In general, and
37 subject to the provisions of this section, the Deferred
38 Retirement Option Program, hereinafter referred to as the DROP,
39 is a program under which an eligible member of the Florida
40 Retirement System may elect to participate, deferring receipt of
41 retirement benefits while continuing employment with his or her
42 Florida Retirement System employer. The deferred monthly
43 benefits shall accrue in the System Trust Fund on behalf of the
44 participant, plus interest compounded monthly, for the specified
45 period of the DROP participation, as provided in paragraph (c).
46 Upon termination of employment, the participant shall receive
47 the total DROP benefits and begin to receive the previously
48 determined normal retirement benefits. Participation in the DROP
49 does not guarantee employment for the specified period of DROP.

50 (a) *Eligibility of member to participate in the DROP.*--All
51 active Florida Retirement System members in a regularly
52 established position, and all active members of either the
53 Teachers' Retirement System established in chapter 238 or the
54 State and County Officers' and Employees' Retirement System
55 established in chapter 122 which systems are consolidated within
56 the Florida Retirement System under s. 121.011, are eligible to
57 elect participation in the DROP provided that:

58 1. The member is not a renewed member of the Florida
59 Retirement System under s. 121.122, or a member of the State
60 Community College System Optional Retirement Program under s.



HB 0991

2003

61 121.051, the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program
62 under s. 121.055, or the optional retirement program for the
63 State University System under s. 121.35.

64 2. Except as provided in subparagraph 6., election to
65 participate is made within 12 months immediately following the
66 date on which the member first reaches normal retirement date,
67 or, for a member who reaches normal retirement date based on
68 service before he or she reaches age 62, or age 55 for Special
69 Risk Class members, election to participate may be deferred to
70 the 12 months immediately following the date the member attains
71 57, or age 52 for Special Risk Class members. For a member who
72 first reached normal retirement date or the deferred eligibility
73 date described above prior to the effective date of this
74 section, election to participate shall be made within 12 months
75 after the effective date of this section. A member who fails to
76 make an election within such 12-month limitation period shall
77 forfeit all rights to participate in the DROP. The member shall
78 advise his or her employer and the division in writing of the
79 date on which the DROP shall begin. Such beginning date may be
80 subsequent to the 12-month election period, but must be within
81 the 60-month or, with respect to members who are registered
82 nurses licensed under part I of chapter 464 whose continuing
83 employment in an active status is deemed essential by their
84 employer, the 96-month limitation period as provided in
85 subparagraph (b)1. When establishing eligibility of the member
86 to participate in the DROP for the 60-month or, with respect to
87 members who are registered nurses licensed under part I of
88 chapter 464 whose continuing employment in an active status is
89 deemed essential by their employer, the 96-month maximum
90 participation period, the member may elect to include or exclude



HB 0991

2003

91 any optional service credit purchased by the member from the
92 total service used to establish the normal retirement date. A
93 member with dual normal retirement dates shall be eligible to
94 elect to participate in DROP within 12 months after attaining
95 normal retirement date in either class.

96 3. The employer of a member electing to participate in the
97 DROP, or employers if dually employed, shall acknowledge in
98 writing to the division the date the member's participation in
99 the DROP begins and the date the member's employment and DROP
100 participation will terminate.

101 4. Simultaneous employment of a participant by additional
102 Florida Retirement System employers subsequent to the
103 commencement of participation in the DROP shall be permissible
104 provided such employers acknowledge in writing a DROP
105 termination date no later than the participant's existing
106 termination date or the ~~60-month~~ limitation period as provided
107 in subparagraph (b)1.

108 5. A DROP participant may change employers while
109 participating in the DROP, subject to the following:

110 a. A change of employment must take place without a break
111 in service so that the member receives salary for each month of
112 continuous DROP participation. If a member receives no salary
113 during a month, DROP participation shall cease unless the
114 employer verifies a continuation of the employment relationship
115 for such participant pursuant to s. 121.021(39)(b).

116 b. Such participant and new employer shall notify the
117 division on forms required by the division as to the identity of
118 the new employer.

119 c. The new employer shall acknowledge, in writing, the
120 participant's DROP termination date, which may be extended but



HB 0991

2003

121 not beyond the original 60-month or, with respect to members who
 122 are registered nurses licensed under part I of chapter 464 whose
 123 continuing employment in an active status is deemed essential by
 124 their employer, the 96-month period provided in subparagraph
 125 (b)1., shall acknowledge liability for any additional retirement
 126 contributions and interest required if the participant fails to
 127 timely terminate employment, and shall be subject to the
 128 adjustment required in sub-subparagraph (c)5.d.

129 6. Effective July 1, 2001, for instructional personnel as
 130 defined in s. 1012.01(2), election to participate in the DROP
 131 shall be made at any time following the date on which the member
 132 first reaches normal retirement date. The member shall advise
 133 his or her employer and the division in writing of the date on
 134 which the Deferred Retirement Option Program shall begin. When
 135 establishing eligibility of the member to participate in the
 136 DROP for the 60-month or, with respect to members who are
 137 registered nurses licensed under part I of chapter 464 whose
 138 continuing employment in an active status is deemed essential by
 139 their employer, the 96-month maximum participation period, as
 140 provided in subparagraph (b)1., the member may elect to include
 141 or exclude any optional service credit purchased by the member
 142 from the total service used to establish the normal retirement
 143 date. A member with dual normal retirement dates shall be
 144 eligible to elect to participate in either class.

145 (b) *Participation in the DROP.--*

146 1. An eligible member may elect to participate in the DROP
 147 for a period not to exceed a maximum of 60 calendar months or,
 148 with respect to members who are registered nurses licensed under
 149 part I of chapter 464 whose continuing employment in an active
 150 status is deemed essential by their employer, 96 calendar months



HB 0991

2003

151 immediately following the date on which the member first reaches
152 his or her normal retirement date or the date to which he or she
153 is eligible to defer his or her election to participate as
154 provided in subparagraph (a)2. However, a member who has reached
155 normal retirement date prior to the effective date of the DROP
156 shall be eligible to participate in the DROP for a period of
157 time not to exceed 60 calendar months or, with respect to
158 members who are registered nurses licensed under part I of
159 chapter 464 whose continuing employment in an active status is
160 deemed essential by their employer, 96 calendar months
161 immediately following the effective date of the DROP, except a
162 member of the Special Risk Class who has reached normal
163 retirement date prior to the effective date of the DROP and
164 whose total accrued value exceeds 75 percent of average final
165 compensation as of his or her effective date of retirement shall
166 be eligible to participate in the DROP for no more than 36
167 calendar months immediately following the effective date of the
168 DROP.

169 2. Upon deciding to participate in the DROP, the member
170 shall submit, on forms required by the division:

171 a. A written election to participate in the DROP;

172 b. Selection of the DROP participation and termination
173 dates, which satisfy the limitations stated in paragraph (a) and
174 subparagraph 1. Such termination date shall be in a binding
175 letter of resignation with the employer, establishing a deferred
176 termination date. The member may change the termination date
177 within the limitations of subparagraph 1., but only with the
178 written approval of his or her employer;

179 c. A properly completed DROP application for service
180 retirement as provided in this section; and



HB 0991

2003

181 d. Any other information required by the division.

182 3. The DROP participant shall be a retiree under the

183 Florida Retirement System for all purposes, except for paragraph

184 (5)(f) and subsection (9) and ss. 112.3173, 112.363, 121.053,

185 and 121.122. However, participation in the DROP does not alter

186 the participant's employment status and such employee shall not

187 be deemed retired from employment until his or her deferred

188 resignation is effective and termination occurs as provided in

189 s. 121.021(39).

190 4. Elected officers shall be eligible to participate in

191 the DROP subject to the following:

192 a. An elected officer who reaches normal retirement date

193 during a term of office may defer the election to participate in

194 the DROP until the next succeeding term in that office. Such

195 elected officer who exercises this option may participate in the

196 DROP for up to 60 calendar months or a period of no longer than

197 such succeeding term of office, whichever is less.

198 b. An elected or a nonelected participant may run for a

199 term of office while participating in DROP and, if elected,

200 extend the DROP termination date accordingly, except, however,

201 if such additional term of office exceeds the 60-month or, with

202 respect to members who are registered nurses licensed under part

203 I of chapter 464 whose continuing employment in an active status

204 is deemed essential by their employer, the 96-month limitation

205 established in subparagraph 1., and the officer does not resign

206 from office within such ~~60-month~~ limitation, the retirement and

207 the participant's DROP shall be null and void as provided in

208 sub-subparagraph (c)5.d.

209 c. An elected officer who is dually employed and elects to

210 participate in DROP shall be required to satisfy the definition



HB 0991

2003

211 of termination within the ~~60-month~~ limitation period as provided
212 in subparagraph 1. for the nonelected position and may continue
213 employment as an elected officer as provided in s. 121.053. The
214 elected officer will be enrolled as a renewed member in the
215 Elected Officers' Class or the Regular Class, as provided in ss.
216 121.053 and 121.22, on the first day of the month after
217 termination of employment in the nonelected position and
218 termination of DROP. Distribution of the DROP benefits shall be
219 made as provided in paragraph (c).

220 (c) *Benefits payable under the DROP.--*

221 1. Effective with the date of DROP participation, the
222 member's initial normal monthly benefit, including creditable
223 service, optional form of payment, and average final
224 compensation, and the effective date of retirement shall be
225 fixed. The beneficiary established under the Florida Retirement
226 System shall be the beneficiary eligible to receive any DROP
227 benefits payable if the DROP participant dies prior to the
228 completion of the period of DROP participation. In the event a
229 joint annuitant predeceases the member, the member may name a
230 beneficiary to receive accumulated DROP benefits payable. Such
231 retirement benefit, the annual cost of living adjustments
232 provided in s. 121.101, and interest shall accrue monthly in the
233 System Trust Fund. Such interest shall accrue at an effective
234 annual rate of 6.5 percent compounded monthly, on the prior
235 month's accumulated ending balance, up to the month of
236 termination or death.

237 2. Each employee who elects to participate in the DROP
238 shall be allowed to elect to receive a lump-sum payment for
239 accrued annual leave earned in accordance with agency policy
240 upon beginning participation in the DROP. Such accumulated leave



HB 0991

2003

241 payment certified to the division upon commencement of DROP
 242 shall be included in the calculation of the member's average
 243 final compensation. The employee electing such lump-sum payment
 244 upon beginning participation in DROP will not be eligible to
 245 receive a second lump-sum payment upon termination, except to
 246 the extent the employee has earned additional annual leave which
 247 combined with the original payment does not exceed the maximum
 248 lump-sum payment allowed by the employing agency's policy or
 249 rules. Such early lump-sum payment shall be based on the hourly
 250 wage of the employee at the time he or she begins participation
 251 in the DROP. If the member elects to wait and receive such lump-
 252 sum payment upon termination of DROP and termination of
 253 employment with the employer, any accumulated leave payment made
 254 at that time cannot be included in the member's retirement
 255 benefit, which was determined and fixed by law when the employee
 256 elected to participate in the DROP.

257 3. The effective date of DROP participation and the
 258 effective date of retirement of a DROP participant shall be the
 259 first day of the month selected by the member to begin
 260 participation in the DROP, provided such date is properly
 261 established, with the written confirmation of the employer, and
 262 the approval of the division, on forms required by the division.

263 4. Normal retirement benefits and interest thereon shall
 264 continue to accrue in the DROP until the established termination
 265 date of the DROP, or until the participant terminates employment
 266 or dies prior to such date. Although individual DROP accounts
 267 shall not be established, a separate accounting of each
 268 participant's accrued benefits under the DROP shall be
 269 calculated and provided to participants.



HB 0991

2003

270 5. At the conclusion of the participant's DROP, the
271 division shall distribute the participant's total accumulated
272 DROP benefits, subject to the following provisions:

273 a. The division shall receive verification by the
274 participant's employer or employers that such participant has
275 terminated employment as provided in s. 121.021(39)(b).

276 b. The terminated DROP participant or, if deceased, such
277 participant's named beneficiary, shall elect on forms provided
278 by the division to receive payment of the DROP benefits in
279 accordance with one of the options listed below. For a
280 participant or beneficiary who fails to elect a method of
281 payment within 60 days of termination of the DROP, the division
282 will pay a lump sum as provided in sub-sub-subparagraph (I).

283 (I) Lump sum.--All accrued DROP benefits, plus interest,
284 less withholding taxes remitted to the Internal Revenue Service,
285 shall be paid to the DROP participant or surviving beneficiary.

286 (II) Direct rollover.--All accrued DROP benefits, plus
287 interest, shall be paid from the DROP directly to the custodian
288 of an eligible retirement plan as defined in s. 402(c)(8)(B) of
289 the Internal Revenue Code. However, in the case of an eligible
290 rollover distribution to the surviving spouse of a deceased
291 participant, an eligible retirement plan is an individual
292 retirement account or an individual retirement annuity as
293 described in s. 402(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.

294 (III) Partial lump sum.--A portion of the accrued DROP
295 benefits shall be paid to the DROP participant or surviving
296 spouse, less withholding taxes remitted to the Internal Revenue
297 Service, and the remaining DROP benefits shall be transferred
298 directly to the custodian of an eligible retirement plan as
299 defined in s. 402(c)(8)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code.



HB 0991

2003

300 However, in the case of an eligible rollover distribution to the
301 surviving spouse of a deceased participant, an eligible
302 retirement plan is an individual retirement account or an
303 individual retirement annuity as described in s. 402(c)(9) of
304 the Internal Revenue Code. The proportions shall be specified by
305 the DROP participant or surviving beneficiary.

306 c. The form of payment selected by the DROP participant or
307 surviving beneficiary complies with the minimum distribution
308 requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

309 d. A DROP participant who fails to terminate employment as
310 defined in s. 121.021(39)(b) shall be deemed not to be retired,
311 and the DROP election shall be null and void. Florida Retirement
312 System membership shall be reestablished retroactively to the
313 date of the commencement of the DROP, and each employer with
314 whom the participant continues employment shall be required to
315 pay to the System Trust Fund the difference between the DROP
316 contributions paid in paragraph (i) and the contributions
317 required for the applicable Florida Retirement System class of
318 membership during the period the member participated in the
319 DROP, plus 6.5 percent interest compounded annually.

320 6. The accrued benefits of any DROP participant, and any
321 contributions accumulated under such program, shall not be
322 subject to assignment, execution, attachment, or to any legal
323 process whatsoever, except for qualified domestic relations
324 orders by a court of competent jurisdiction, income deduction
325 orders as provided in s. 61.1301, and federal income tax levies.

326 7. DROP participants shall not be eligible for disability
327 retirement benefits as provided in subsection (4).

328 (d) *Death benefits under the DROP.--*



HB 0991

2003

329 1. Upon the death of a DROP participant, the named
330 beneficiary shall be entitled to apply for and receive the
331 accrued benefits in the DROP as provided in sub-subparagraph
332 (c)5.b.

333 2. The normal retirement benefit accrued to the DROP
334 during the month of a participant's death shall be the final
335 monthly benefit credited for such DROP participant.

336 3. Eligibility to participate in the DROP terminates upon
337 death of the participant. If the participant dies on or after
338 the effective date of enrollment in the DROP, but prior to the
339 first monthly benefit being credited to the DROP, Florida
340 Retirement System benefits shall be paid in accordance with
341 subparagraph (7)(c)1. or subparagraph 2.

342 4. A DROP participants' survivors shall not be eligible to
343 receive Florida Retirement System death benefits as provided in
344 paragraph (7)(d).

345 (e) *Cost-of-living adjustment.*--On each July 1, the
346 participants' normal retirement benefit shall be increased as
347 provided in s. 121.101.

348 (f) *Retiree health insurance subsidy.*--DROP participants
349 are not eligible to apply for the retiree health insurance
350 subsidy payments as provided in s. 112.363 until such
351 participants have terminated employment and participation in the
352 DROP.

353 (g) *Renewed membership.*--DROP participants shall not be
354 eligible for renewed membership in the Florida Retirement System
355 under ss. 121.053 and 121.122 until termination of employment is
356 effectuated as provided in s. 121.021(39)(b).

357 (h) *Employment limitation after DROP participation.*--Upon
358 satisfying the definition of termination of employment as



HB 0991

2003

359 provided in s. 121.021(39)(b), DROP participants shall be
360 subject to such reemployment limitations as other retirees.
361 Reemployment restrictions applicable to retirees as provided in
362 subsection (9) shall not apply to DROP participants until their
363 employment and participation in the DROP are terminated.

364 (i) *Contributions*.--

365 1. All employers paying the salary of a DROP participant
366 filling a regularly established position shall contribute 8.0
367 percent of such participant's gross compensation for the period
368 of July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003, and 11.56 percent of
369 such compensation thereafter, which shall constitute the entire
370 employer DROP contribution with respect to such participant.
371 Such contributions, payable to the System Trust Fund in the same
372 manner as required in s. 121.071, shall be made as appropriate
373 for each pay period and are in addition to contributions
374 required for social security and the Retiree Health Insurance
375 Subsidy Trust Fund. Such employer, social security, and health
376 insurance subsidy contributions are not included in the DROP.

377 2. The employer shall, in addition to subparagraph 1.,
378 also withhold one-half of the entire social security
379 contribution required for the participant. Contributions for
380 social security by each participant and each employer, in the
381 amount required for social security coverage as now or hereafter
382 provided by the federal Social Security Act, shall be in
383 addition to contributions specified in subparagraph 1.

384 3. All employers paying the salary of a DROP participant
385 filling a regularly established position shall contribute the
386 percent of such participant's gross compensation required in s.
387 121.071(4), which shall constitute the employer's health
388 insurance subsidy contribution with respect to such participant.



HB 0991

2003

389 Such contributions shall be deposited by the administrator in
390 the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Trust Fund.

391 (j) *Forfeiture of retirement benefits.*--Nothing in this
392 section shall be construed to remove DROP participants from the
393 scope of s. 8(d), Art. II of the State Constitution, s.
394 112.3173, and paragraph (5)(f). DROP participants who commit a
395 specified felony offense while employed will be subject to
396 forfeiture of all retirement benefits, including DROP benefits,
397 pursuant to those provisions of law.

398 (k) *Administration of program.*--The division shall make
399 such rules as are necessary for the effective and efficient
400 administration of this subsection. The division shall not be
401 required to advise members of the federal tax consequences of an
402 election related to the DROP but may advise members to seek
403 independent advice.

404 Section 2. The Legislature finds that a proper and
405 legitimate state purpose is served when employees and retirees
406 of the state and of its political subdivisions, and the
407 dependents, survivors, and beneficiaries of such employees and
408 retirees, are extended the basic protections afforded by
409 governmental retirement systems that provide fair and adequate
410 benefits and that are managed, administered, and funded in an
411 actuarially sound manner, as required by s. 14, Art. X of the
412 State Constitution and part VII of chapter 112, Florida
413 Statutes. Therefore, the Legislature hereby determines and
414 declares that the provisions of this act fulfill an important
415 state interest.

416 Section 3. (1) The sum of \$1 million is appropriated from
417 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health. Moneys in
418 this appropriation shall be used by that department to make



HB 0991

2003

419 grants to local not-for-profit hospitals for nurse retention and
 420 out-of-state recruitment activities during the 2003-2004 fiscal
 421 year. These moneys are subject to a one-for-one match from
 422 sources other than the government of this state or one of its
 423 political subdivisions. Moneys not matched by September 30,
 424 2003, revert to the General Revenue Fund.

425 (2) The Department of Health shall accept requests for
 426 grants under this act beginning July 1, 2003. The department
 427 shall determine grant amounts beginning October 1, 2003, once
 428 the amount of the appropriation in subsection (1) which has been
 429 matched by additional moneys is determined and the department
 430 can determine the amount of grant moneys available.

431 (3) The department shall by rule adopt criteria for grant
 432 awards. In addition to other criteria, the department shall
 433 require that a hospital have experienced an average vacancy rate
 434 among nursing positions during the preceding 12 months of 20
 435 percent or more. If the amount available for distribution is
 436 less than the aggregate amount of requests that meet the
 437 department's criteria, the department shall make grants pro
 438 rata.

439 Section 4. Section 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended
 440 to read:

441 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.--

442 (1)(a) The department shall issue the appropriate license
 443 by endorsement to practice professional or practical nursing to
 444 an applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting
 445 a fee set by the board not to exceed \$100, demonstrates to the
 446 board that he or she:

447 1.(a) Holds a valid license to practice professional or
 448 practical nursing in another state or territory of the United



HB 0991

2003

449 States, provided that, when the applicant secured his or her
 450 original license, the requirements for licensure were
 451 substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those
 452 existing in Florida at that time;

453 2.~~(b)~~ Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 464.008
 454 and has successfully completed a state, regional, or national
 455 examination which is substantially equivalent to or more
 456 stringent than the examination given by the department; or

457 3.~~(c)~~ Has actively practiced nursing in another state,
 458 jurisdiction, or territory of the United States for 2 of the
 459 preceding 3 years without having his or her license acted
 460 against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction.

461 Applicants who become licensed pursuant to this subparagraph
 462 ~~paragraph~~ must complete within 6 months after licensure a
 463 Florida laws and rules course that is approved by the board.
 464 Once the department has received the results of the national
 465 criminal history check and has determined that the applicant has
 466 no criminal history, the appropriate license by endorsement
 467 shall be issued to the applicant. This subparagraph ~~paragraph~~ is
 468 repealed July 1, 2004, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

469 (b)~~(2)~~ Such examinations and requirements from other
 470 states and territories of the United States shall be presumed to
 471 be substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those in
 472 this state. Such presumption shall not arise until January 1,
 473 1980. However, the board may, by rule, specify states and
 474 territories the examinations and requirements of which shall not
 475 be presumed to be substantially equivalent to those of this
 476 state.

477 (2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1), the
 478 applicant must:



HB 0991

2003

479 (a) Have the ability to communicate in the English
480 language, which may be determined by an examination given by the
481 department.

482 (b)(3) ~~The applicant must~~ Submit to the department a set
483 of fingerprints on a form and under procedures specified by the
484 department, along with a payment in an amount equal to the costs
485 incurred by the Department of Health for the criminal background
486 check of the applicant. The Department of Health shall submit
487 the fingerprints provided by the applicant to the Florida
488 Department of Law Enforcement for a statewide criminal history
489 check, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shall
490 forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation
491 for a national criminal history check of the applicant. The
492 Department of Health shall review the results of the criminal
493 history check, issue a license to an applicant who has met all
494 of the other requirements for licensure and has no criminal
495 history, and shall refer all applicants with criminal histories
496 back to the board for determination as to whether a license
497 should be issued and under what conditions.

498 (3)(4) The department shall not issue a license by
499 endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in
500 another state, jurisdiction, or territory of the United States
501 for an act which would constitute a violation of this part or
502 chapter 456 until such time as the investigation is complete, at
503 which time the provisions of s. 464.018 shall apply.

504 (4)(5) The department shall develop an electronic
505 applicant notification process and provide electronic
506 notification when the application has been received and when
507 background screenings have been completed, and shall issue a
508 license within 30 days after completion of all required data



HB 0991

2003

509 collection and verification. This 30-day period to issue a
 510 license shall be tolled if the applicant must appear before the
 511 board due to information provided on the application or obtained
 512 through screening and data collection and verification
 513 procedures.

514 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
 515 1009.66, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 3 of chapter
 516 2002-400, Laws of Florida, and section 71 of chapter 2002-402,
 517 Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

518 1009.66 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

519 (7)(a) Funds contained in the Nursing Student Loan
 520 Forgiveness Trust Fund which are to be used for loan forgiveness
 521 for those nurses employed by hospitals, birth centers, and
 522 nursing homes must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by
 523 contributions from the employing institutions, except that this
 524 provision shall not apply to state-operated medical and health
 525 care facilities, public schools, county health departments,
 526 federally sponsored community health centers, teaching hospitals
 527 as defined in s. 408.07, family practice teaching hospitals as
 528 defined in s. 395.805, or specialty hospitals for children as
 529 used in s. 409.9119. An estimate of the annual trust fund
 530 dollars shall be made at the beginning of the fiscal year based
 531 on historic expenditures from the trust fund. Applicant requests
 532 shall be reviewed on a quarterly basis, and applicant awards
 533 shall be based on a first-come, first-served basis ~~the following~~
 534 ~~priority of employer~~ until all such estimated trust funds are
 535 awarded: ~~state-operated medical and health care facilities;~~
 536 ~~public schools; county health departments; federally sponsored~~
 537 ~~community health centers; teaching hospitals as defined in s.~~
 538 ~~408.07; family practice teaching hospitals as defined in s.~~



HB 0991

2003

539 ~~395.805; specialty hospitals for children as used in s.~~
540 ~~409.9119; and other hospitals, birth centers, and nursing homes.~~

541 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.