

587-918C-05

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to increasing the number of  
3           nurses in the state's workforce; amending s.  
4           1009.66, F.S.; revising the criteria for  
5           receiving funds under the Nursing Student Loan  
6           Forgiveness Program; requiring that nurses  
7           employed as faculty in an approved nursing  
8           program be given priority in receiving funds  
9           under the program; providing appropriations;  
10          requiring the Board of Nursing to adopt rules  
11          requiring nursing applicants and licensees to  
12          submit certain information concerning  
13          employment and education; authorizing the board  
14          to provide such information to the Florida  
15          Center for Nursing; providing an effective  
16          date.

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

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20           Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 1009.66, Florida  
21 Statutes, is amended to read:

22           1009.66 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

23           (7) Funds contained in the Nursing Student Loan  
24 Forgiveness Trust Fund which are to be used for loan  
25 forgiveness for those nurses employed by hospitals, birth  
26 centers, and nursing homes and for those nurses employed as  
27 faculty in an approved nursing program must be matched on a  
28 dollar-for-dollar basis by contributions from the employing  
29 institutions, except that this provision shall not apply to  
30 state-operated medical and health care facilities, public  
31 schools, county health departments, federally sponsored

1 | community health centers, teaching hospitals as defined in s.  
2 | 408.07, family practice teaching hospitals as defined in s.  
3 | 395.805, or specialty hospitals for children as used in s.  
4 | 409.9119. An estimate of the annual trust fund dollars shall  
5 | be made at the beginning of the fiscal year based on historic  
6 | expenditures from the trust fund. Applicant requests shall be  
7 | reviewed on a quarterly basis, and applicant awards shall be  
8 | based on the following priority of employer until all such  
9 | estimated trust funds are awarded: nursing programs approved  
10 | by the Florida Board of Nursing; state-operated medical and  
11 | health care facilities; public schools; county health  
12 | departments; federally sponsored community health centers;  
13 | teaching hospitals as defined in s. 408.07; family practice  
14 | teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805; specialty  
15 | hospitals for children as used in s. 409.9119; and other  
16 | hospitals, birth centers, and nursing homes.

17 |       Section 2. The sum of \$2,400,000 is appropriated from  
18 | the General Revenue Fund to the Nursing Student Loan  
19 | Forgiveness Trust Fund. Priority for receipt of these funds  
20 | shall be graduates who have received a master's degree or a  
21 | doctoral degree in nursing and are employed as faculty in an  
22 | approved nursing program in this state.

23 |       Section 3. The sum of \$6,620,519 is appropriated from  
24 | the General Revenue Fund to the Workforce Development  
25 | Capitalization Incentive Grant Program within the Department  
26 | of Education for the purpose of increasing the capacity of  
27 | community college nursing programs.

28 |       Section 4. The sum of \$10,141,600 is appropriated from  
29 | the General Revenue Fund to the Division of Colleges and  
30 | Universities of the Department of Education for the purpose of  
31 |

1 increasing the capacity of nursing programs at public colleges  
2 and universities.

3       Section 5. The Board of Nursing shall adopt rules to  
4 require applicants for nursing licensure and licensed nurses  
5 to submit employment data, education data, and other workforce  
6 information at the time of initial licensure and license  
7 renewal. The Board of Nursing may provide a form to employers  
8 for collecting data concerning the employment of nurses who  
9 practice nursing in this state. The board may provide such  
10 workforce information to the Florida Center for Nursing in  
11 order to assist the center in achieving the goals specified in  
12 section 464.0195, Florida Statutes.

13       Section 6. The sum of \$256,000 is appropriated from  
14 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health to be  
15 used by the Board of Nursing to gather information regarding  
16 the nursing workforce at the time of initial licensure and  
17 license renewal. In coordination with the Board of Nursing,  
18 the department may use part of this appropriation for a  
19 contract with the Florida Center for Nursing to develop a  
20 survey instrument to be used by the board to gather workforce  
21 data.

22       Section 7. The sum of \$96,000 is appropriated from the  
23 General Revenue Fund to the Agency for Workforce Innovation  
24 for the purpose of funding programs that deliver nursing  
25 education at the worksite in order to enable working nursing  
26 assistants to achieve a nursing license and nurses to achieve  
27 a higher level of nursing license.

28       Section 8. The sum of \$2 million is appropriated from  
29 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education for  
30 the purpose of funding the Sunshine Workforce Solutions Grant  
31 Program.

1           Section 9. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the  
2 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health for the  
3 purpose of funding a nursing fair at a central location in  
4 this state and a website for recruiting nurses to work in  
5 health care facilities in this state.

6           Section 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
7 law.

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10                                 SENATE SUMMARY

11           Requires that nurses employed as faculty in an approved  
12           nursing program be given priority in receiving funds  
13           under the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.  
14           Requires the Board of Nursing to adopt rules to require  
15           that nursing applicants and licensees submit information  
16           concerning employment and education. Authorizes the board  
17           to provide such information to the Florida Center for  
18           Nursing. Provides appropriations.