

By Senator Davis

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the First in Your Family Florida  
3           Medical School Scholarship and Grant Program; creating  
4           s. 1009.899, F.S.; establishing the First in Your  
5           Family Florida Medical School Scholarship and Grant  
6           Program within the Department of Education for  
7           specified purposes; requiring the department to award  
8           scholarships to certain students enrolled in specified  
9           schools or programs; providing requirements for such  
10          scholarships; requiring the department to establish  
11          specified criteria for the program; authorizing the  
12          department to provide grants to certain postsecondary  
13          educational institutions or nonprofit organizations to  
14          create and implement nontraditional mentoring services  
15          or support programs for specified purposes; providing  
16          a maximum grant amount through the program; providing  
17          an appropriation; providing an effective date.

18  
19          WHEREAS, Florida's population is growing and, according to  
20          the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
21          Accountability, there will be an anticipated shortfall of 18,000  
22          physicians by 2035, and

23          WHEREAS, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
24          Government Accountability spent more than a year collecting data  
25          related to the state's graduate medical education programs and  
26          concluded that "Florida's physician workforce is inadequate to  
27          meet projected demand," and

28          WHEREAS, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
29          Government Accountability reported that the shortage of

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30 physicians in this state could affect citizens' access to health  
31 care if current trends persist, with a supply of physicians to  
32 meet only 77 percent of the projected demand for physicians in  
33 Florida by 2035, and

34 WHEREAS, there were approximately 835,000 practicing  
35 doctors in the United States in 2023, according to the United  
36 States Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the United States is  
37 currently experiencing a shortage of practicing doctors because  
38 demand exceeds supply, NOW THEREFORE,

39  
40 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41  
42 Section 1. Section 1009.899, Florida Statutes, is created  
43 to read:

44 1009.899 The First in Your Family Florida Medical School  
45 Scholarship and Grant Program.—

46 (1) There is established the First in Your Family Florida  
47 Medical School Scholarship and Grant Program to be administered  
48 by the Department of Education to provide scholarships to  
49 students who are the first in their families to be enrolled in  
50 an in-state or out-of-state accredited medical school or  
51 approved physician assistant program and to create  
52 nontraditional mentoring services or support programs for  
53 certain students.

54 (2) The department shall award scholarships to students who  
55 are the first in their families to be enrolled in an in-state or  
56 out-of-state accredited medical school or approved physician  
57 assistant program that will lead to licensure under chapter 458  
58 or chapter 459. The scholarship amount shall be determined by

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59 the department. Priority shall be given to students who are  
60 enrolled in an accredited medical school in the state and who  
61 graduated from a public or private postsecondary educational  
62 institution in the state in the last 5 years. The department  
63 shall establish criteria for the program, which must include:

64 (a) Student eligibility criteria, including, but not  
65 limited to, requirements that the applicant:

66 1. Be the first in his or her family to be enrolled in an  
67 in-state or out-of-state accredited medical school or approved  
68 physician assistant program.

69 2. Be a United States citizen.

70 (b) Program and scholarship award requirements, including,  
71 but not limited to, that:

72 1. Awards must be income-based for students whose annual  
73 household income is less than \$150,000.

74 2. Two-thirds of the scholarships that are available and  
75 awarded through the program must be to students who are enrolled  
76 in an in-state medical school or physician assistant program at  
77 a public postsecondary educational institution.

78 3. One-third of the scholarships that are available and  
79 awarded through the program must be to students who are enrolled  
80 in an out-of-state medical school or physician assistant program  
81 at a public or private postsecondary educational institution.

82 4. Preference shall be given to students enrolled at in-  
83 state accredited medical schools and approved physician  
84 assistant programs at public educational institutions.

85 5. Scholarship award funds shall be dispersed as follows:

86 a. Fifty percent of the total scholarship award shall be  
87 paid after September 1 of each year when the enrollment of the

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88 student has been verified.

89 b. Twenty five percent of the total scholarship award shall  
90 be paid in January of each year.

91 c. Twenty five percent of the total scholarship award shall  
92 be paid in June of each year.

93 6. A scholarship may be awarded and renewed for a total of  
94 4 years, based upon proof of enrollment or continued enrollment  
95 in an accredited medical school or approved physician assistant  
96 program.

97 7. A student receiving an award through the program may use  
98 up to \$5,000 of the scholarship for emergency funds for students  
99 experiencing an emergency or a financial crisis, including, but  
100 not limited to, issues relating to a student's car, housing, and  
101 health care.

102 8. A student receiving an award through the program may use  
103 up to \$2,500 of the scholarship for fees, kits, coats, clothing,  
104 medical bag, blood pressure kits, drug testing, or disability  
105 insurance.

106 (3) The department may award grants to public postsecondary  
107 educational institutions or nonprofit organizations under s.  
108 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code to create  
109 and implement nontraditional mentoring services or support  
110 programs to assist students who are enrolled in an accredited  
111 medical school or approved physician assistant program at a  
112 public educational institution in the state. A grant awarded  
113 under this subsection may not exceed \$100,000.

114 Section 2. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each fiscal  
115 year thereafter, the sum of \$10,000,000 in recurring funds is  
116 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of

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117 Education for the purpose of implementing the First in Your  
118 Family Florida Medical School Scholarship and Grant Program.

119 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.