

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the grants for genetic counseling
3 education; creating s. 1009.8963, F.S.; creating the
4 Genetic Counseling Education Enhancement Grant Program
5 within the State University System; providing the
6 purpose of the program; subject to legislative
7 appropriation, requiring the Board of Governors to
8 award grant funds to state universities for specified
9 purposes; requiring the program to reward excellence
10 among genetic counseling programs based on specified
11 criteria; providing authorized uses of grant funds;
12 prohibiting such funds from being used for specified
13 purposes; requiring state universities participating
14 in the program to maintain specified records;
15 requiring such state universities to submit an annual
16 report; requiring the Board of Governors to submit an
17 annual summary of such reports to the Governor and
18 Legislature by a specified date; requiring the Board
19 of Governors to adopt regulations; providing an
20 effective date.

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

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24 **Section 1. Section 1009.8963, Florida Statutes, is created**
25 **to read:**

26 1009.8963 The Genetic Counseling Education Enhancement
27 Grant Program.—

28 (1) The Genetic Counseling Education Enhancement Grant
29 Program is created within the State University System to support
30 the development, growth, and sustainability of graduate level
31 genetic counseling programs accredited by the American Board of
32 Genetic Counseling. The Board of Governors shall award
33 competitive grants to state universities to address faculty
34 shortages, student financial barriers, and clinical training
35 needs in genetic counseling.

36 (2) Subject to appropriation, the board shall award funds
37 to:

38 (a) Establish an accredited program at a state university
39 through a one-time start-up grant based upon an application
40 submitted in a format prescribed by the board. The application
41 must include:

42 1. A detailed plan demonstrating how grant funds will be
43 used to achieve program accreditation.

44 2. The projected outcomes of establishing the program,
45 including all of the following:

46 a. The anticipated program enrollment.

47 b. The plan for hiring and retaining faculty for the
48 program.

49 c. The anticipated program completion rates.

50 d. The anticipated first-time American Board of Genetic

51 Counseling board certification examination passage rates.

52 e. The anticipated program contributions to the state's
53 genetic counseling workforce.

54 (b) Accredited programs based on program performance
55 according to the following metrics:

56 1. The number of students completing the genetic
57 counseling program.

58 2. The first-time American Board of Genetic Counseling
59 board certification examination passage rate for students
60 completing the state university's genetic counseling program.

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62 The program shall reward excellence among genetic counseling
63 programs with an average first-time American Board of Genetic
64 Counseling board certification examination passage rate above
65 the national average.

66 (3) (a) Grant funds provided through the program must be
67 used for:

68 1. The recruitment and retention of qualified faculty,
69 including, but not limited to, salaries, professional
70 development, and incentives.

71 2. Financial assistance to students enrolled in the
72 accredited program. Such financial assistance must be in the
73 form of scholarships that cover tuition, required books and
74 materials, and reasonable living expenses.

75 3. The establishment and maintenance of clinical rotations

required for completion of the master's degree in genetic counseling, including partnerships with health care facilities for supervised practicum experiences, simulation training resources, and faculty oversight.

(b) Grant funds may not be used for:

1. General administrative overhead costs.
2. The construction of new facilities.
3. Nonprogram-related activities.

(c) State universities that receive a grant through the program must maintain records sufficient to demonstrate compliance with this subsection.

(4) (a) Each state university receiving funds pursuant to this section shall submit an annual report to the board. The report must include:

1. Expenditures.
2. The outcomes achieved using grant funds.
3. Plans for the upcoming fiscal year for the program.

(b) The board shall annually compile the reports into a statewide summary. The summary must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by July 1 of each year.

(5) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations to administer this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.