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CS/HB 1115, Engrossed 1

2026 Legislature

1
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.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23
24 Section 1. Section 1009.8963, Florida Statutes, is created
25 to read:

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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 a recognized
 32 accrediting body. The Board of Governors shall award competitive
 33 grants to state universities to address faculty shortages,
 34 student financial barriers, and clinical training needs in
 35 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

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51 Counseling board certification examination passage rates.
 52 e. The anticipated program contributions to the state's
 53 genetic counseling workforce.
 54 3. Documentation demonstrating that the proposed program
 55 is supported by sufficient clinical training capacity consistent
 56 with nationally recognized accreditation standards, and that the
 57 proposed growth represents a net increase in statewide training
 58 opportunities rather than a redistribution of existing
 59 supervision resources.
 60 (b) Accredited programs based on program performance
 61 according to the following metrics:
 62 1. The number of students completing the genetic
 63 counseling program.
 64 2. The first-time American Board of Genetic Counseling
 65 board certification examination passage rate for students
 66 completing the state university's genetic counseling program.
 67
 68 The program shall reward excellence among genetic counseling
 69 programs with an average first-time American Board of Genetic
 70 Counseling board certification examination passage rate above
 71 the national average.
 72 (3) (a) Grant funds provided through the program must be
 73 used for:
 74 1. The recruitment and retention of qualified faculty,
 75 including, but not limited to, salaries, professional

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76 development, and incentives.

77 2. Financial assistance to students enrolled in the
 78 accredited program. Such financial assistance must be in the
 79 form of scholarships that cover tuition, required books and
 80 materials, and reasonable living expenses.

81 3. The establishment and maintenance of clinical rotations
 82 required for completion of the master's degree in genetic
 83 counseling, including partnerships with health care facilities
 84 for supervised practicum experiences, simulation training
 85 resources, and faculty oversight.

86 (b) Grant funds may not be used for:

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

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

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

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

99 (b) The board shall annually compile the reports into a
 100 statewide summary. The summary must be submitted to the

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101 | Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
102 | House of Representatives by July 1 of each year.

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

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