

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Booth offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.8962 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund.—

(1) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Act."

(2) Recognizing that the state has a persistent and growing nursing shortage, it is the intent of the Legislature to address this critical workforce need by incentivizing

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14 collaboration between nursing education programs and health care
15 partners that contribute monetary or nonmonetary contributions
16 through the establishment of the LINE Fund. This fund is
17 intended to meet local, regional, and state workforce demand by
18 recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the
19 capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and
20 increasing the number of nursing education program graduates who
21 are prepared and licensed to enter the workforce.

22 (3) As used in this section, the term:

23 (a) "Health care partner" means a health care provider as
24 defined in s. 768.38(2) which is licensed to operate in this
25 state.

26 (b) "Institution" means a school district career center
27 under s. 1001.44; a charter technical career center under s.
28 1002.34; a Florida College System institution; a state
29 university; an independent nonprofit college or university
30 located and chartered in this state and accredited by an agency
31 or association that is recognized by the database created and
32 maintained by the United States Department of Education to grant
33 baccalaureate degrees; or an independent school, college, or
34 university with an accredited program as defined in s. 464.003
35 which is located in this state and licensed by the Commission
36 for Independent Education pursuant to s. 1005.31, or an
37 institution authorized under s. 1009.521, which has a nursing
38 education program that meets or exceeds the following:

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39 1. For a certified nursing assistant program, a completion
40 rate of at least 70 percent for the prior year.

41 2. For a licensed practical nurse, associate of science in
42 nursing, and bachelor of science in nursing program, a first-
43 time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of
44 Nursing Licensing Examination of at least 75 percent for the
45 prior year based on a minimum of 10 testing participants.

46 (c) "Student" means a person who is a resident for tuition
47 purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21 and enrolled in a nursing
48 education program at an institution.

49 (4) The LINE Fund shall be administered by the Board of
50 Governors for state universities and the Department of Education
51 for all other institutions.

52 (5) Subject to available funds, for every monetary or
53 nonmonetary contribution ~~dollar contributed~~ to an institution by
54 a health care partner or other person or entity, the fund shall
55 provide a dollar-to-dollar match to the participating
56 institution to implement the activities outlined in the
57 institution's approved proposal. Monetary contributions from
58 health care partners shall receive priority when awarding
59 matching funds to institutions.

60 (6) (a) Funds may be used for student scholarships;;
61 recruitment of additional faculty and preceptors; increasing
62 program enrollment, program completion, and licensure
63 examination passage rates; ; equipment;; ~~and simulation centers;~~

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64 and internships to advance high-quality nursing education
65 programs throughout the state.

66 (b) Funds may not be used for the construction of new
67 buildings, but may be used to expand, retrofit, or upgrade
68 existing facilities if the proposal will result in increased
69 program enrollments or improved or modernized educational or
70 simulation space for an institution's nursing education program
71 students.

72 (7) (a) To participate, an institution's president, chief
73 administrative officer, or designee ~~institution~~ must submit a
74 timely and completed proposal to the Board of Governors or
75 Department of Education, in a format prescribed by the Board of
76 Governors or Department of Education, as applicable.

77 (b) The proposal must identify a health care partner
78 located and licensed to operate in the state whose ~~monetary~~
79 contributions will be matched by the fund on a dollar-to-dollar
80 basis.

81 (c) Allowable nonmonetary contributions are limited to the
82 following:

83 1. The value of the donated use of health care partner
84 employees as nursing education program instructors or
85 preceptors.

86 2. The value of the donated use of a health care partner's
87 space or equipment by a nursing education program.

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88 3. The value of donated educational or simulation
89 equipment.

90 4. Other similar quantifiable donated goods and services
91 deemed by the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
92 applicable, to be good faith contributions that support the
93 goals of the LINE Fund.

94 (d) To accept nonmonetary contributions as health care
95 matching funds, the applicant and Board of Governors or
96 Department of Education, as applicable, must quantify the fair
97 market value of the contribution in dollars and certify that the
98 proposed contribution directly supports the goals of the LINE
99 Fund outlined in subsection (2).

100 (e) A proposal may not be comprised solely of nonmonetary
101 contributions.

102 (8) The Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
103 applicable, must review and evaluate each completed and timely
104 submitted proposal according to the following minimum criteria,
105 where applicable:

106 (a) Whether monetary and nonmonetary contributions ~~funds~~
107 committed by the health care partner will contribute to an
108 eligible purpose.

109 (b) How the institution plans to use the funds or
110 nonmonetary contribution, including how such funds or
111 nonmonetary contribution will be utilized to increase student
112 enrollment and program completion.

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113 (c) How the health care partner will onboard and retain
114 graduates or otherwise improve the likelihood that graduates
115 will successfully join the state or local workforce.

116 (d) How the funds or nonmonetary contribution will be used
117 to expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet
118 local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, this
119 shall include advanced education nursing programs and how the
120 funds or nonmonetary contribution will increase the number of
121 faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize
122 the clinical placement process established in s. 14.36.

123 (9) (a) Each institution with an approved proposal shall
124 notify the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
125 applicable, upon receipt of the health care partner provided
126 funds or nonmonetary contribution identified in the proposal.
127 The Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
128 applicable, shall release grant funds, on a dollar-for-dollar
129 basis, up to the amount of funds or the fair market value of the
130 nonmonetary contribution received by the institution, including
131 notifications made on a rolling or periodic basis.

132 (b) If deemed to meet the long-term goals of the LINE
133 Fund, the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
134 applicable, may, but are not required to, award funds for an
135 approved proposal for up to 2 academic years immediately
136 following the academic year within which the initial approval is
137 granted. If the Board of Governors or Department of Education,

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138 as applicable, approves a multiyear award to an institution, it
139 must notify the recipient that the award amount in subsequent
140 years is subject to a LINE Fund appropriation and the continued
141 notification of the health care partner's contribution to match
142 the multiyear award of state funds.

143 (c) ~~(b)~~ Annually, by February 1, each institution awarded
144 grant funds in the previous fiscal year shall submit a report to
145 the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
146 applicable, that demonstrates the expansion as outlined in the
147 proposal and the use of funds. At minimum, the report must
148 include, by program level, the number of additional nursing
149 education students enrolled; if scholarships were awarded using
150 grant funds, the number of students who received scholarships
151 and the average award amount; and the outcomes of students as
152 reported by the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help
153 pursuant to s. 14.36(3) (1).

154 (10) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and
155 the State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the
156 fund, establish dates for the submission and review of
157 proposals, award funds, and other regulations and rules
158 necessary to implement this section.

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

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

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163 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

164 A bill to be entitled

165 An act relating to the Linking Industry to Nursing
166 Education Fund; amending s. 1009.8962, F.S.; revising
167 the Legislative intent for the Linking Industry to
168 Nursing Education (LINE) Fund; revising the definition
169 of the term "health care partner"; authorizing the
170 inclusion of nonmonetary contributions to institutions
171 for purposes of proposals for LINE Fund matching
172 funds; requiring monetary contributions to receive
173 priority in the award of matching funds; revising the
174 authorized uses of awarded funds; requiring proposals
175 for participation in the fund to be submitted by
176 specified persons; providing allowable nonmonetary
177 contributions; providing requirements for the
178 acceptance of nonmonetary contributions as health care
179 matching funds; prohibiting a proposal to participate
180 in the fund from being comprised solely of nonmonetary
181 contributions; revising the criteria the Board of
182 Governors and the Department of Education must use to
183 review proposals; requiring grant funds awarded based
184 on nonmonetary contributions to be based on such
185 contribution's fair market value; authorizing the
186 Board of Governors and the Department of Education to
187 provide multiyear awards under certain circumstances;

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188 | providing notification requirements for such awards;
189 | providing an effective date.

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