

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, the fund shall provide a dollar-to-dollar
55 match to the participating institution to implement the
56 activities outlined in the institution's approved proposal.
57 Monetary contributions from health care partners shall receive
58 priority when awarding matching funds to institutions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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162 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

163 A bill to be entitled

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

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

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