

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Fiscal Policy

BILL: CS/SB 1246

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee on Higher Education and Senator Davis

SUBJECT: Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund

DATE: February 17, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	HE	Favorable
2.	Gray	Elwell	AHE	Fav/CS
3.	Jahnke	Siples	FP	Favorable

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1246 expands the scope of the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund to address workforce shortages in health science education programs, in addition to nursing education programs. The bill revises eligibility, matching contribution authority, allowable uses of funds, grant evaluation criteria, and reporting requirements to support the expansion of health science education programs aligned with the State Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education Health Science curriculum framework.

Additionally, the bill establishes a standardized process for identifying health science programs eligible for participation in the LINE Fund by designating the Department of Education as the lead entity, limiting eligibility to Career and Technical Education-aligned programs, and using workforce demand data to inform funding priorities.

This bill does not have a fiscal impact on state revenues and expenditures. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund

The Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund was established in 2022¹ as a competitive grant opportunity, and provides matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis to participating institutions that partner with health care providers² incentivizing collaboration to meet local, regional, and statewide demand for nurses.³

For purposes of the LINE Fund, a “student” is a resident for tuition purposes⁴ who is enrolled in a nursing education program at an institution.⁵

The LINE Funds are available to:

- District career centers;⁶
- Charter technical career centers;⁷
- Florida College System (FCS) institutions;
- State Universities;
- Independent nonprofit colleges or universities located and chartered in the state accredited by a United States Department of Education recognized accrediting agency or association to grant baccalaureate degrees; and
- Independent school, college, or university with an accredited program as defined in s. 464.003 which is located in this state and licensed by the Commission for Independent Education pursuant to s. 1005.31, which has a nursing education program that meets or exceeds the following:
 - For a certified nursing assistant program, a completion rate of at least 70 percent for the prior year.
 - For a licensed practical nurse, associate of science in nursing, and bachelor of science in nursing program, a first-time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination of at least 75 percent for the prior year based on a minimum of 10 testing participants.⁸

The funds are to be administered by the Board of Governors (BOG) for state universities and by the Florida Department of Education (DOE) for all other institutions.⁹ The funds may be used for student scholarships, recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and simulation centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings.¹⁰

¹ Chapter 2022-154, s. 50, Laws of Fla.

² Sections 1009.8962 and 768.38, F.S.

³ Florida Board of Governors, *All Universities with Nursing Programs Receive LINE Funding*, available at <https://www.flbog.edu/2024/10/31/all-universities-with-nursing-programs-receive-line-funding/> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

⁴ Section 1009.21, F.S.

⁵ Section 1009.8962(3)(c), F.S.

⁶ Section 1001.44, F.S.

⁷ Section 1002.34, F.S.

⁸ Section 1009.8962(3), F.S.

⁹ Section 1009.8962(4), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1009.8962(6), F.S.

Each institution must submit a proposal to the BOG or DOE. The proposal must identify the health care partner located and licensed in the state. The BOG or DOE must review and evaluate each proposal according to the following minimum criteria:

- Whether funds committed by the health care partner will contribute to an eligible purpose.
- How the institution plans to use the funds, including how such funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion.
- How the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.
- How the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, it should include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process.¹¹

For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, \$24,000,000 was provided to school district postsecondary technical career centers, charter technical career centers, FCS institutions, independent non-profit colleges or universities, and independent schools, colleges, or universities for participation in the LINE Fund program.¹² In the same year, \$6,000,000 was provided to state universities for participation in the LINE Fund program.¹³

Career and Technical Education Health Science Curriculum Framework

The Department of Education (DOE) is responsible for developing and maintaining Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum frameworks for middle school, secondary, and postsecondary CTE programs. These programs are organized into 17 career clusters¹⁴ and are designed to serve middle school, high school, district technical college, and FCS students statewide. The CTE curriculum frameworks establish standards and competencies developed in collaboration with business, industry, and education partners and are intended to prepare students for occupations important to Florida's economic development.¹⁵ The CTE curriculum frameworks are adopted annually by the State Board of Education.¹⁶ All CTE curriculum frameworks, including the Health Science framework, are available on the DOE CTE webpage and through CPALMS-CTE.¹⁷

The Health Science curriculum framework identifies courses, competencies, and instructional sequences that support health science career pathways from introductory through advanced levels across educational settings. Programs aligned with the Health Science curriculum

¹¹ Section 1009.8962(7)-(8), F.S.

¹² Specific Appropriation 131, Ch. 2025-198, L.O.F.

¹³ Specific Appropriation 146, Ch. 2025-198, L.O.F.

¹⁴ The Florida Department of Education, Career & Technical Education, *2025-26 CTE Curriculum Frameworks*, <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/curriculum-frameworks/2025-26-frameworks/> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

¹⁵ The Florida Department of Education, Career & Technical Education, *CTE Curriculum Frameworks*, <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/curriculum-frameworks/> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

¹⁶ Rule 6A-60571, F.A.C.

¹⁷ CPALMS, *Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs*, <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourseProgram/CTE?frameurl=%2Fsearch> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

framework include certificate and degree pathways that prepare students for health care–related occupations, such as nursing support, allied health, and clinical services.¹⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 1009.8962, F.S., to expand the scope of the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund to address workforce shortages in health science education programs in addition to nursing education programs. The legislative intent is revised to reflect a broader focus on health science workforce needs and to include programs aligned with the State Board of Education’s (SBE) Career and Technical Education (CTE) Health Science curriculum framework.

The bill revises the definition of “student” to include a resident for tuition purposes who is enrolled in a nursing education program institution or health science education degree or certificate program at an institution that is part of the SBE’s CTE Health Science curriculum framework.

The bill authorizes the LINE Fund to provide a dollar-for-dollar match for contributions made by individuals or entities that are not health care partners, provided the contribution supports an eligible purpose of the fund. Contributions from health care partners must be given priority when awarding matching funds to institutions.

The bill revises allowable uses of LINE Fund monies for nursing and health science education programs by authorizing expenditures for student recruitment and facility renovation or remodeling.

The bill revises grant proposal evaluation criteria to include how funds will expand health science education programs to meet workforce demand. The bill revises annual reporting requirements for grant recipients to include enrollment data for applicable health science education programs, in addition to nursing programs.

Additionally, the bill designates the Department of Education (DOE) as the lead entity responsible for identifying and maintaining health science programs eligible for participation in the LINE Fund and requires the DOE to apply the SBE’s CTE Health Science curriculum framework as the basis for determining program eligibility.

The bill requires the DOE to compile and publish an initial list of LINE-eligible health science programs by October 1, 2026. In developing and administering the list of LINE-eligible health science programs, the bill requires the DOE to:

- Compile the current CTE Health Science pathways and programs;
- Identify CTE-aligned health science programs offered through district technical colleges, career centers, and Florida College System institutions;

¹⁸ The Florida Department of Education, 2025-26 CTE Curriculum Frameworks, *Health Science*, <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/curriculum-frameworks/2025-26-frameworks/health-science.stml> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

- Establish and apply alignment criteria, including credential type and applicable licensure or certification outcomes, for purposes of determining program eligibility; and
- Maintain an approved list of LINE-eligible health science programs for use in administering the LINE Fund.

The bill requires the DOE to annually publish and update the list of eligible health science programs to reflect changes to the CTE Health Science framework and program offerings.

The bill authorizes the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) to provide workforce and labor market demand data to support prioritization of LINE Funding, but prohibits the office from determining program eligibility.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. **Government Sector Impact:**

This bill does not have a fiscal impact on state revenues or expenditures, as the dollar-to-dollar match is subject to available funds.

VI. **Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

VII. **Related Issues:**

None.

VIII. **Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 1009.8962 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. **Additional Information:**

A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Appropriations Committee on Higher Education on February 4, 2026:

The committee substitute maintains the provisions of the original bill but adds the following:

- Clarifies the definition of “student” to include a person enrolled in an nursing education program at an institution or in a health science education degree or certificate program at an institution that is part of the State Board of Education’s (SBE) Career and Technical Education (CTE) Health Science curriculum framework.
- Designates the Department of Education (DOE) to serve as the lead entity for identifying and maintaining health science programs eligible for participation in the LINE Fund and requires program eligibility to be based on the SBE’s CTE Health Science curriculum framework.
- Limits eligibility to CTE-aligned health science programs offered by district technical colleges, career centers, and Florida College System institutions.
- Requires the DOE to establish and apply eligibility criteria including credential type and applicable licensure or certification outcomes.
- Requires the DOE to compile and publish an initial list of LINE-eligible health science programs by October 1, 2026, and to annually review and update the list thereafter.
- Authorizes the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) to provide workforce and labor market demand data to inform prioritization of LINE funding, but prohibits the office from determining program eligibility.

B. Amendments:

None

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
