

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 Appropriations Committee on Higher Education

BILL: SB 1246

INTRODUCER: Senator Davis

SUBJECT: Health Science Workforce Shortages

DATE: February 3, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	HE	Favorable
2.	Gray	Elwell	AHE	Pre-meeting
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

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.

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

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).

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

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

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.

¹¹ Section 1009.8962(7)-(8), F.S.

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 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 Career and Technical Education Health Science curriculum framework.

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).

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).

The bill revises the definition of “student” to include a resident for tuition purposes who is enrolled in a nursing education or health science education degree or certificate program that is part of the State Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education 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.

Additionally, 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.

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:

The bill includes health science programs in the definition of “student.” However, in doing so, both nursing education and health science education are linked to institutions that are part of the State Board of Education’s (SBE) career and technical education (CTE) frameworks in Health Science. Adhering to such a definition would exclude programs at state universities and private postsecondary institutions. The sponsor may wish to clarify that a student may be enrolled in a nursing education program at an institution, or in a health science education degree or certificate program at an institution that is part of the SBE’s CTE frameworks in Health Science.

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 Changes:**

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

None.

B. Amendments:

None