

By Senator Davis

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to health science workforce shortages;  
amending s. 1009.8962, F.S.; revising legislative  
intent to address workforce needs in health science  
education programs, in addition to nursing education  
programs; revising the definition of the term  
"student"; authorizing the Linking Industry to Nursing  
Education Fund to be used to match certain  
contributions; revising how certain funds may be  
expended; conforming a provision to changes made by  
the act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (2), paragraph (c) of subsection (3),  
subsection (5), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), paragraph (d)  
of subsection (8), and paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of  
section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(2) Recognizing that the state has a persistent and growing  
nursing shortage and shortages in other related health science  
professions, it is the intent of the Legislature to address this  
critical workforce need by incentivizing collaboration between  
nursing and health science education programs and health care  
partners through the establishment of the LINE Fund. This fund  
is intended to meet local, regional, and state workforce demand  
by recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the  
capacity of high-quality nursing and health science education

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30 programs as outlined in the State Board of Education's Career  
31 and Technical Education Health Science curriculum framework, and  
32 increasing the number of nursing and health science education  
33 program graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce.

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

35 (c) "Student" means a person who is a resident for tuition  
36 purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21 and enrolled in a nursing  
37 education or health science education degree or certificate  
38 program at an institution that is part of the State Board of  
39 Education's Career and Technical Education Health Science  
40 curriculum framework.

41 (5) Subject to available funds, for every dollar  
42 contributed to an institution by a health care partner, the fund  
43 shall provide a dollar-to-dollar match to the participating  
44 institution. Subject to available funds, the fund may also  
45 provide a dollar-to-dollar match to the participating  
46 institution for every dollar contributed to an institution or  
47 its direct support organization by an individual or entity that  
48 does not meet the definition of a health care partner, provided  
49 the contribution supports an eligible purpose of the fund.  
50 Contributions from health care partners shall receive priority  
51 when awarding matching funds to institutions.

52 (6) (a) Funds may be used for student scholarships,  
53 recruitment of additional faculty and students, equipment,  
54 facility renovation or remodeling, and simulation centers to  
55 advance high-quality nursing and health science education  
56 programs throughout the state.

57 (8) The Board of Governors or Department of Education, as  
58 applicable, must review and evaluate each completed and timely

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submitted proposal according to the following minimum criteria:

(d) How the funds will expand the institution's nursing and health science education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, this shall 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 established in s. 14.36.

(9)

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

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