

20261246er

1  
2 An act relating to the Linking Industry to Nursing  
3 Education Fund; amending s. 1009.8962, F.S.; revising  
4 the Legislative intent for the Linking Industry to  
5 Nursing Education (LINE) Fund; revising the definition  
6 of the term "health care partner"; authorizing the  
7 inclusion of nonmonetary contributions to institutions  
8 for purposes of proposals for LINE Fund matching  
9 funds; requiring monetary contributions to receive  
10 priority in the award of matching funds; revising the  
11 authorized uses of awarded funds; requiring proposals  
12 for participation in the fund to be submitted by  
13 specified persons; providing allowable nonmonetary  
14 contributions; providing requirements for the  
15 acceptance of nonmonetary contributions as health care  
16 matching funds; prohibiting a proposal to participate  
17 in the fund from being comprised solely of nonmonetary  
18 contributions; revising the criteria the Board of  
19 Governors and the Department of Education must use to  
20 review proposals; requiring grant funds awarded based  
21 on nonmonetary contributions to be based on such  
22 contribution's fair market value; authorizing the  
23 Board of Governors and the Department of Education to  
24 provide multiyear awards under certain circumstances;  
25 providing notification requirements for such awards;  
26 providing an effective date.

27  
28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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20261246er

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

32 1009.8962 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE)  
33 Fund.—

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

36 (2) Recognizing that the state has a persistent and growing  
37 nursing shortage, it is the intent of the Legislature to address  
38 this critical workforce need by incentivizing collaboration  
39 between nursing education programs and health care partners that  
40 contribute monetary or nonmonetary contributions through the  
41 establishment of the LINE Fund. This fund is intended to meet  
42 local, regional, and state workforce demand by recruiting  
43 faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of  
44 high-quality nursing education programs, and increasing the  
45 number of nursing education program graduates who are prepared  
46 and licensed to enter the workforce.

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

48 (a) “Health care partner” means a health care provider as  
49 defined in s. 768.38(2) which is licensed to operate in this  
50 state.

51 (b) “Institution” means a school district career center  
52 under s. 1001.44; a charter technical career center under s.  
53 1002.34; a Florida College System institution; a state  
54 university; an independent nonprofit college or university  
55 located and chartered in this state and accredited by an agency  
56 or association that is recognized by the database created and  
57 maintained by the United States Department of Education to grant  
58 baccalaureate degrees; or an independent school, college, or

20261246er

59 university with an accredited program as defined in s. 464.003  
60 which is located in this state and licensed by the Commission  
61 for Independent Education pursuant to s. 1005.31, or an  
62 institution authorized under s. 1009.521, which has a nursing  
63 education program that meets or exceeds the following:

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

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

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

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

77 (5) Subject to available funds, for every monetary or  
78 nonmonetary contribution ~~dollar contributed~~ to an institution by  
79 a health care partner or other person or entity, the fund shall  
80 provide a dollar-to-dollar match to the participating  
81 institution to implement the activities outlined in the  
82 institution's approved proposal. Monetary contributions from  
83 health care partners shall receive priority when awarding  
84 matching funds to institutions.

85 (6) (a) Funds may be used for student scholarships; ~~7~~  
86 recruitment of additional faculty and preceptors; increasing  
87 program enrollment, program completion, and licensure

20261246er

88 examination passage rates;~~7~~ equipment;~~7~~ and simulation centers;  
89 and internships to advance high-quality nursing education  
90 programs throughout the state.

91 (b) Funds may not be used for the construction of new  
92 buildings, but may be used to expand, retrofit, or upgrade  
93 existing facilities if the proposal will result in increased  
94 program enrollments or improved or modernized educational or  
95 simulation space for an institution's nursing education program  
96 students.

97 (7) (a) To participate, an institution's president, chief  
98 administrative officer, or designee ~~institution~~ must submit a  
99 timely and completed proposal to the Board of Governors or  
100 Department of Education, in a format prescribed by the Board of  
101 Governors or Department of Education, as applicable.

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

106 (c) Allowable nonmonetary contributions are limited to the  
107 following:

108 1. The value of the donated use of health care partner  
109 employees as nursing education program instructors or  
110 preceptors.

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

113 3. The value of donated educational or simulation  
114 equipment.

115 4. Other similar quantifiable donated goods and services  
116 deemed by the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as

20261246er

117 applicable, to be good faith contributions that support the  
118 goals of the LINE Fund.

119 (d) To accept nonmonetary contributions as health care  
120 matching funds, the applicant and Board of Governors or  
121 Department of Education, as applicable, must quantify the fair  
122 market value of the contribution in dollars and certify that the  
123 proposed contribution directly supports the goals of the LINE  
124 Fund outlined in subsection (2).

125 (e) A proposal may not be comprised solely of nonmonetary  
126 contributions.

127 (8) The Board of Governors or Department of Education, as  
128 applicable, must review and evaluate each completed and timely  
129 submitted proposal according to the following minimum criteria,  
130 where applicable:

131 (a) Whether monetary and nonmonetary contributions funds  
132 committed by the health care partner will contribute to an  
133 eligible purpose.

134 (b) How the institution plans to use the funds or  
135 nonmonetary contribution, including how such funds or  
136 nonmonetary contribution will be utilized to increase student  
137 enrollment and program completion.

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

141 (d) How the funds or nonmonetary contribution will be used  
142 to expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet  
143 local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, this  
144 shall include advanced education nursing programs and how the  
145 funds or nonmonetary contribution will increase the number of

20261246er

146 faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize  
147 the clinical placement process established in s. 14.36.

148 (9) (a) Each institution with an approved proposal shall  
149 notify the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as  
150 applicable, upon receipt of the health care partner provided  
151 funds or nonmonetary contribution identified in the proposal.  
152 The Board of Governors or Department of Education, as  
153 applicable, shall release grant funds, on a dollar-for-dollar  
154 basis, up to the amount of funds or the fair market value of the  
155 nonmonetary contribution received by the institution, including  
156 notifications made on a rolling or periodic basis.

157 (b) If deemed to meet the long-term goals of the LINE Fund,  
158 the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as  
159 applicable, may, but are not required to, award funds for an  
160 approved proposal for up to 2 academic years immediately  
161 following the academic year within which the initial approval is  
162 granted. If the Board of Governors or Department of Education,  
163 as applicable, approves a multiyear award to an institution, it  
164 must notify the recipient that the award amount in subsequent  
165 years is subject to a LINE Fund appropriation and the continued  
166 notification of the health care partner's contribution to match  
167 the multiyear award of state funds.

168 (c) ~~(b)~~ Annually, by February 1, each institution awarded  
169 grant funds in the previous fiscal year shall submit a report to  
170 the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as  
171 applicable, that demonstrates the expansion as outlined in the  
172 proposal and the use of funds. At minimum, the report must  
173 include, by program level, the number of additional nursing  
174 education students enrolled; if scholarships were awarded using

20261246er

175 grant funds, the number of students who received scholarships  
176 and the average award amount; and the outcomes of students as  
177 reported by the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help  
178 pursuant to s. 14.36(3)(1).

179 (10) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and the  
180 State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the  
181 fund, establish dates for the submission and review of  
182 proposals, award funds, and other regulations and rules  
183 necessary to implement this section.

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