

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [CS/HB 1325](#)

TITLE: Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund

SPONSOR(S): Booth

COMPANION BILLS: [CS/SB 1246](#) (Davis)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Careers & Workforce](#)

16 Y, 0 N, As CS

[Higher Education Budget](#)

13 Y, 0 N

[Education & Employment](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill expands the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund to allow nonmonetary contributions made to an institution. The bill broadens the range of eligible contributors to include any person or entity, in addition to health care partners, and establishes that contributions from health care partners receive priority when awarding matching funds. The bill also updates proposal requirements, allowing institutions to identify these additional contributors and clarifying that proposals may not consist solely of nonmonetary contributions.

The bill revises proposal evaluation criteria to address how funds and nonmonetary contributions are used to support student enrollment, program completion, and the expansion of nursing education programs to meet workforce needs. The bill also revises grant disbursement procedures, allowing institutions to receive matching funds for nonmonetary contributions, with the Board of Governors and the Department of Education required to release funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the amount of funds received or the fair market value of nonmonetary contributions.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill does not have an additional fiscal impact, as the LINE Fund matching is subject to available funds.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill expands the [Linking Industry to Nursing Education \(LINE\) Fund](#) to allow [nonmonetary contributions](#) made to an institution. The bill also expands eligible contributors to include any other person or entity, in addition to health care partners, and specifies that contributions from health care partners must receive priority when awarding matching funds to institutions.

The bill revises proposal requirements for participation in the LINE Fund by expanding the entities that may be identified in a proposal to include other persons or entities whose contributions may be matched by the fund. The bill further requires that a proposal may not be comprised solely of nonmonetary contributions.

The bill updates proposal evaluation criteria to include monetary and nonmonetary contributions, expands eligible contributors to include persons or entities other than health care partners, and requires consideration of how funds and nonmonetary contributions support enrollment, program completion, and expansion of nursing education programs to meet workforce demands.

The bill revises grant disbursement requirements for institutions with approved proposals to include nonmonetary contributions in addition to funds. Under the bill, the Board of Governors (BOG) and the Department of Education (DOE) are required to release grant funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the amount of funds received or the fair market value of the nonmonetary contribution. (Section [1](#)).

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#)).

STORAGE NAME: h1325c.HEB

DATE: 2/12/2026

RULEMAKING:

The bill requires the BOG to adopt regulations and the DOE to adopt rules to determine under what circumstances nonmonetary contributions may be considered and how the fair market value of such nonmonetary contributions may be determined.

Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.

RELEVANT INFORMATION**SUBJECT OVERVIEW:****Nursing Shortage in Florida**

Florida continues to experience significant shortages in the nursing workforce. In 2024, hospitals across the state reported more than 16,000 vacant nursing positions, down from over 58,000 in 2022, and the statewide nursing vacancy rate declined to 7.8 percent, with a turnover rate of 17.6 percent.¹ Despite these short-term improvements, long-term projections indicate the state will continue to face a shortage of nurses. According to the Florida Nurse Workforce Projections report, Florida is expected to have a deficit of 59,100 nurses by 2035.²

Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund

The Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund was established in 2022³ to address Florida's persistent and growing nursing shortage by incentivizing collaboration between nursing education programs and health care partners.⁴ The LINE Fund is intended to meet local, regional, and statewide workforce demand by recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and increasing the number of nursing education program graduates prepared to enter the workforce.⁵

The LINE Fund is administered by the Board of Governors (BOG) for state universities and by the Department of Education (DOE) for all other eligible institutions.⁶ Subject to available funds, the program provides a dollar-for-dollar match for monetary contributions made by a health care partner to a participating institution.⁷ The LINE 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.⁸

For purposes of the LINE Fund, a health care partner is a health care provider as defined in Florida statute.⁹

¹ Florida Hospital Association, *Press Release - New Data Reveals Significant Improvements to Florida's Health Care Workforce Shortage* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.fha.org/FHA/FHA/News-Content/New-Releases/091224%20Vacancy%20and%20Turnover%20Data%20Release.aspx> (last visited Feb. 11, 2026).

² *Id.*

³ Chapter 2022-154, s. 50, L.O.F

⁴ Section [1009.8962\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Section [1009.8962\(4\), F.S.](#), *See also*, Florida Board of Governors, *All Universities with Nursing Programs Receive LINE Funding*, <https://www.flbog.edu/2024/10/31/all-universities-with-nursing-programs-receive-line-funding/> (last visited Feb. 11, 2026) and Florida Department of Education, *Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund*, <https://www.fl DOE.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/linefund/> (last visited Feb. 11, 2026).

⁷ Section [1009.8962\(5\), F.S.](#)

⁸ Section [1009.8962\(6\), F.S.](#)

⁹ Section [1009.8962\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#); *see* [s. 768.38\(2\), F.S.](#), for the statutory definition of "health care provider."

Postsecondary institutions eligible to participate in the program include:¹⁰

- District and charter career centers;¹¹
- Florida College System institutions;
- State universities;
- Independent non-profit colleges or universities; and
- Independent schools, colleges or universities with an eligible program.¹²

All eligible programs must meet or exceed the following performance metrics:¹³

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) programs must have a completion rate of at least 70% for the prior year.
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN), and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs must achieve a first-time passage rate of at least 75% on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) for the prior year, based on a minimum of ten testing participants.

Program Administration

To participate, an institution must submit a timely and completed proposal to the BOG¹⁴ or the DOE¹⁵, as applicable, in a format prescribed by the respective governing body.¹⁶ The proposal must identify a health care partner located and licensed to operate in Florida whose monetary contributions will be matched by the LINE Fund on a dollar-to-dollar basis.¹⁷

The BOG or DOE, as applicable, must review and evaluate each proposal according to the following minimum criteria:¹⁸

- 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.

Each institution with an approved proposal must notify the BOG or DOE, as applicable, upon receipt of the health care partner provided funds identified in the proposal. Upon notification, the BOG or DOE must release matching grant funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the amount of funds received by the institution.¹⁹

By February 1 of each year, each institution awarded grant funds in the previous fiscal year must submit a report to the BOG or DOE, as applicable, demonstrating implementation of the approved proposal and the use of LINE Funds.²⁰ At minimum, the report must include by program level:

- The number of additional nursing education students enrolled;
- If scholarships were awarded using grant funds, the number of students who received scholarships and the average award amount; and

¹⁰ Section [1009.8962, F.S.](#) See also, The Reimagining Education and Career Help Office, *Nursing Education Trends Report* (Dec. 2025), at 26.

¹¹ See [ss. 1001.44, F.S.](#) and [1002.34, F.S.](#)

¹² See [s. 464.003, F.S.](#)

¹³ Section [1009.8962\(3\)\(b\)1.-2., F.S.](#); r. 6A-10.0352(2)(c)1.-2., F.A.C., and Regulation 8.008(1)(a), Board of Governors.

¹⁴ Regulation 8.008, Board of Governors.

¹⁵ Rule 6A-10.0352, F.A.C.

¹⁶ Section [1009.8962\(7\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

¹⁷ Section [1009.8962\(7\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

¹⁸ Section [1009.8962\(8\), F.S.](#)

¹⁹ Section [1009.8962\(9\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

²⁰ Section [1009.8962\(9\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

- The outcomes of students as reported by the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help.

Funding History and Awards

The table below summarizes LINE Fund appropriations and awards distributed to eligible postsecondary institutions by fiscal year.²¹

Fiscal Year	Total Appropriations	BOG Allocation	DOE Allocation	Projects funded	Total Amount Awarded
2022-23	\$25 million	\$ 6 Million ²²	\$ 19 Million ²³	1 District Career Center 16 Florida Colleges 9 Independent Colleges and Universities 8 State Universities	\$24.5 million
2023-24	\$25 million	\$ 6 Million ²⁴	\$ 19 Million ²⁵	2 District Career Centers 17 Florida Colleges 8 Independent Colleges and Universities 9 State Universities	\$19.7 million
2024-25	\$30 million	\$ 6 Million ²⁶	\$ 19 Million ²⁷ \$ 5 Million ²⁸	1 District Career Center 26 Florida Colleges 14 Independent Colleges and Universities 10 State Universities	\$20 million
2025-26	\$30 million	\$ 6 Million ²⁹	\$ 24 Million ³⁰	Applicants ongoing	—
Total	\$110 million	\$24 Million	\$ 86 Million	—	—

Nonmonetary Contributions

An in-kind contribution is a non-cash donation made to a nonprofit organization. Instead of giving money, donors provide goods, services, or expertise that have a tangible value. Common in-kind contributions include donated office equipment, professional services, event space, or materials needed for a project.³¹

Currently, in-kind or nonmonetary contributions do not qualify for matching funds under the LINE Fund.³²

²¹ The Reimagining Education and Career Help Office, *Nursing Education Trends Report* (Dec. 2025), at 26-27.

²² Specific Appropriation 143A, s. 2, ch. 2022-156, L.O.F.

²³ Specific Appropriation 126A, s. 2, ch. 2022-156, L.O.F.

²⁴ Specific Appropriation 142, s. 2, ch. 2023-239, L.O.F.

²⁵ Specific Appropriation 125, s. 2, ch. 2023-239, L.O.F.

²⁶ Specific Appropriation 146, s. 2, ch. 2024-231, L.O.F.

²⁷ Specific Appropriation 129, s. 2, ch. 2024-231, L.O.F.

²⁸ Section 79, Ch. 2024-15, L.O.F. Effective July 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$5 million in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated in the Aid to Local Governments Grants and Aids – Nursing Education category to the Department of Education for the purpose of implementing the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund established in s. 1009.8962, Florida Statutes.

²⁹ Specific Appropriation 146, s. 2, ch. 2024-231, L.O.F.

³⁰ Specific Appropriation 131, s. 2, ch. 2025-198, L.O.F.

³¹ Aplos, *In-Kind contribution*, <https://www.aplos.com/glossary/in-kind-contribution> (last visited Feb. 11, 2026).

³² See Florida Department of Education, Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ (Question #38), available at <https://www.fl doe.org/file/20694/2526LINEFunFAQs.pdf>.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<u>Careers & Workforce Subcommittee</u>	16 Y, 0 N, As CS	2/4/2026	Kiner	Dixon
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed provisions expanding the LINE Fund to health science education programs and related professions. • Restored the definition of "student" to a resident for tuition purposes enrolled in a nursing education program. • Removed expanded allowable uses of LINE Fund dollars. 			
<u>Higher Education Budget Subcommittee</u>	13 Y, 0 N	2/16/2026	Fontaine	Stenson
<u>Education & Employment Committee</u>				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
