

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

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

TITLE: Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund

SPONSOR(S): Booth

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

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: [SB 2516](#)

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 112 Y's 0 N's

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill expands the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund to allow specified nonmonetary contributions and to permit contributions from non-health care partners, but gives priority to monetary contribution from health care partners. The bill facilitates a process to determine the fair market value of nonmonetary contributions and prohibits proposals from consisting solely of nonmonetary contributions.

The bill clarifies that while LINE funds may not be used to construct new buildings, such funds may be used to expand, retrofit, or upgrade existing facilities if such expenditures will result in increased nursing program capacity. To streamline the application process, the bill contemplates proposals being submitted by the institution's president, chief administrative officer, or designee, instead of requiring approval by the institution's board. The bill also allows LINE funds to be awarded for up to two academic years, with notifications required if future awards are contingent on continued contributions and appropriations.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

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

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

CS/CS/HB 1325 passed as [CS/SB 1246](#)

The bill expands the [Linking Industry to Nursing Education \(LINE\) Fund](#) to allow [nonmonetary contributions](#) and to permit contributions from persons or entities that do not meet the definition of a health care partner, but gives priority to monetary contributions from health care partners when awarding matching funds.

Allowable nonmonetary contributions include:

- The value of the donated use of health care partner employees as nursing education program instructors or preceptors.
- The value of the donated use of a health care partner's space or equipment by a nursing education program.
- The value of donated educational or simulation equipment.
- Other similar quantifiable donated goods and services deemed by the Board of Governors (BOG) or Department of Education (DOE), as applicable, to be good faith contributions that support the goals of the LINE Fund.

The bill requires that, to accept nonmonetary contributions as health care matching funds, the applicant and the BOG or DOE, as applicable, must quantify the fair market value of the contribution in dollars and certify that it directly supports the goals of the LINE Fund. The bill further requires that a proposal may not consist solely of nonmonetary contributions.

The bill expands the authorized uses of the LINE Fund to include the recruitment of preceptors; increasing program enrollment, program completion, and licensure examination passage rates; and internships.

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The bill also clarifies that while funds may not be used to construct new buildings, such funds may be used to expand, retrofit, or upgrade existing facilities if the proposal will increase program enrollments or improve or modernize educational or simulation space for an institution's nursing education program students.

To streamline the application process, the bill revises LINE Fund participation requirements to specify that a proposal must be submitted by an institution's president, chief administrative officer, or designee.

The bill updates LINE Fund proposal evaluation criteria to require consideration of monetary and nonmonetary contributions from a health care partner and how the partner may otherwise improve the likelihood that graduates join the state or local workforce. The bill also allows evaluation of how funds or nonmonetary contributions will expand nursing education programs, increase faculty and clinical preceptors, and support the use of established clinical placement processes.

The bill revises grant disbursement requirements for institutions with approved proposals to include nonmonetary contributions in addition to monetary funds. The bill specifies that the dollar-for-dollar match for nonmonetary contributions is based on the fair market value of the contribution and includes notifications made on a rolling or periodic basis.

The bill authorizes the BOG or DOE, as applicable, if deemed to meet the long-term goals of the LINE Fund, to award funds for an approved proposal for up to two academic years immediately following the academic year in which the initial approval is granted, but does not require the BOG or DOE to do so.

The bill requires that if the BOG or DOE, as applicable, approves a multiyear award to an institution, it must notify the recipient that the award amount in subsequent years is subject to a LINE Fund appropriation and the continued notification of the health care partner's contribution to match the multiyear award of state funds. (Section [1](#)).

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 22, 2026, ch. 2026-101, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#)).

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

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 Mar. 16, 2026).

² *Id.*

³ Chapter 2022-154, s. 50, L.O.F.

⁴ Section [1009.8962\(2\)](#), F.S.

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

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.

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 Mar. 16, 2026) and Florida Department of Education, *Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund*, <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/linefund/> (last visited Mar. 16, 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.”

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.](#)

- 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
- 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	\$20 million

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

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

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.

				10 State Universities	
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

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 Mar. 16, 2026).