

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Linking Industry to Nursing
3 Education Fund; amending s. 1009.8962, F.S.; revising
4 legislative intent to incentivize collaboration with
5 other persons and entities that contribute monetary or
6 nonmonetary contributions; authorizing dollar-to-
7 dollar matches of funds for certain contributions by
8 persons or entities to an institution; prohibiting a
9 proposal to participate in the fund from being
10 comprised solely of nonmonetary contributions;
11 revising the criteria the Board of Governors or
12 Department of Education must use to review proposals;
13 requiring grant funds awarded based on nonmonetary
14 contributions to be based on such contribution's fair
15 market value; revising Board of Governors and State
16 Board of Education duties to adopt regulations and
17 rules, respectively, to administer the program;
18 providing an effective date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 **Section 1. Section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes, is amended**
23 **to read:**

24 1009.8962 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE)
25 Fund.—

26 (1) This section shall be known and may be cited as the
27 "Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Act."

28 (2) Recognizing that the state has a persistent and
29 growing nursing shortage, it is the intent of the Legislature to
30 address this critical workforce need by incentivizing
31 collaboration among ~~between~~ nursing education programs, ~~and~~
32 health care partners, and other persons and entities that
33 contribute monetary or nonmonetary contributions through the
34 establishment of the LINE Fund. This fund is intended to meet
35 local, regional, and state workforce demand by recruiting
36 faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of
37 high-quality nursing education programs, and increasing the
38 number of nursing education program graduates who are prepared
39 to enter the workforce.

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

41 (a) "Health care partner" means a health care provider as
42 defined in s. 768.38(2).

43 (b) "Institution" means a school district career center
44 under s. 1001.44; a charter technical career center under s.
45 1002.34; a Florida College System institution; a state
46 university; an independent nonprofit college or university
47 located and chartered in this state and accredited by an agency
48 or association that is recognized by the database created and
49 maintained by the United States Department of Education to grant
50 baccalaureate degrees; or an independent school, college, or

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

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

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

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

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

69 (5) Subject to available funds, for every monetary or
70 nonmonetary contribution ~~dollar contributed~~ to an institution by
71 a health care partner or other person or entity, the fund shall
72 provide a dollar-to-dollar match to the participating
73 institution. Monetary and nonmonetary contributions from health
74 care partners shall receive priority when awarding matching
75 funds to institutions.

76 (6) (a) Funds may be used for student scholarships,
77 recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and simulation
78 centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs
79 throughout the state.

80 (b) Funds may not be used for the construction of new
81 buildings.

82 (7) (a) To participate, an institution must submit a timely
83 and completed proposal to the Board of Governors or Department
84 of Education, in a format prescribed by the Board of Governors
85 or Department of Education, as applicable.

86 (b) The proposal must identify a health care partner
87 located and licensed to operate in the state or other person or
88 entity whose ~~monetary~~ contributions will be matched by the fund
89 on a dollar-to-dollar basis.

90 (c) A proposal may not be comprised solely of nonmonetary
91 contributions.

92 (8) The Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
93 applicable, must review and evaluate each completed and timely
94 submitted proposal according to the following minimum criteria:

95 (a) Whether monetary and nonmonetary contributions ~~funds~~
96 committed by the health care partner or other person or entity
97 will contribute to an eligible purpose.

98 (b) How the institution plans to use the funds or
99 nonmonetary contribution, including how such funds or
100 nonmonetary contribution will be utilized to increase student

101 enrollment and program completion.

102 (c) How the health care partner will onboard and retain
103 graduates.

104 (d) How the funds or nonmonetary contribution will expand
105 the institution's nursing education programs to meet local,
106 regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, this shall
107 include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds or
108 nonmonetary contribution will increase the number of faculty and
109 clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical
110 placement process established in s. 14.36.

111 (9)(a) Each institution with an approved proposal shall
112 notify the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
113 applicable, upon receipt of the ~~health care partner~~ provided
114 funds or nonmonetary contribution identified in the proposal.
115 The Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
116 applicable, shall release grant funds, on a dollar-for-dollar
117 basis, up to the amount of funds or the fair market value of the
118 nonmonetary contribution received by the institution.

119 (b) Annually, by February 1, each institution awarded
120 grant funds in the previous fiscal year shall submit a report to
121 the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as
122 applicable, that demonstrates the expansion as outlined in the
123 proposal and the use of funds. At minimum, the report must
124 include, by program level, the number of additional nursing
125 education students enrolled; if scholarships were awarded using

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

130 (10) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and
131 the State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the
132 fund, establish dates for the submission and review of
133 proposals, award funds, determine under what circumstances
134 nonmonetary contributions may be considered, how the fair market
135 value of such nonmonetary contributions may be determined, and
136 other regulations and rules necessary to implement this section.

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