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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Floor: 1/AD/2R

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05/12/2026 11:12 AM

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Senator Harrell moved the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 464.0195, Florida Statutes, is amended  
to read:

464.0195 Florida Center for Nursing; ~~goals.~~

(1) There is established within the University of South  
Florida the Florida Center for Nursing to address issues of  
supply and demand for nursing, including issues of recruitment,  
retention, and utilization of resources that support the state's



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12 nursing nurse workforce ~~resources~~. The Legislature finds that  
13 the center will repay the state's investment by providing an  
14 ongoing strategy for the allocation of the state's resources  
15 directed towards nursing.

16 (2) The primary goals for the center shall be to:

17 (a) Develop a strategic statewide plan for nursing manpower  
18 in this state by:

19 1. Conducting a statistically valid biennial data-driven  
20 gap analysis of the supply and demand of the health care  
21 workforce. The center shall:

22 a. Establish and maintain a database on nursing supply and  
23 demand in the state, to include current supply and demand.

24 b. Analyze the current and future supply and demand in the  
25 state and the impact of this state's participation in the Nurse  
26 Licensure Compact under s. 464.0095.

27 2. Developing recommendations to increase nurse faculty and  
28 clinical preceptors, support nurse faculty development, and  
29 promote advanced nurse education.

30 3. Developing best practices in the academic preparation  
31 and continuing education needs of qualified nurse educators,  
32 nurse faculty, and clinical preceptors.

33 4. Collecting data on nurse faculty, employment,  
34 distribution, and retention.

35 5. Piloting innovative projects to support the recruitment,  
36 development, and retention of qualified nurse faculty and  
37 clinical preceptors.

38 6. Encouraging and coordinating the development of  
39 academic-practice partnerships, including partnerships with  
40 hospitals which provide opportunities for nursing students to



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41 obtain clinical experience, to support nurse faculty employment  
42 and advancement.

43 7. Developing distance learning infrastructure for nursing  
44 education and advancing faculty competencies in the pedagogy of  
45 teaching and the evidence-based use of technology, simulation,  
46 and distance learning techniques.

47 (b) Enhance and promote recognition, reward, and renewal  
48 activities for nurses in the state by:

49 1. Promoting nursing excellence programs such as magnet  
50 recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center;

51 2. Proposing and creating additional reward, recognition,  
52 and renewal activities for nurses; and

53 3. Promoting media and positive image-building efforts for  
54 nursing.

55 (c) Convene various groups representative of nurses, other  
56 health care providers, business and industry, consumers,  
57 lawmakers, and educators to:

58 1. Review and comment on data analysis prepared for the  
59 center;

60 2. Recommend systemic changes, including strategies for  
61 implementation of recommended changes; and

62 3. Evaluate and report the results of these efforts to the  
63 Legislature and other entities.

64 (3) The Board of Nursing shall include on its initial and  
65 renewal application forms a question asking each nurse to  
66 voluntarily contribute to funding the Florida Center for Nursing  
67 in addition to paying the fees imposed at the time of licensure  
68 and licensure renewal. Revenues collected from nurses over and  
69 above the required fees shall be transferred from the Medical



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70 Quality Assurance Trust Fund to the Grants and Donations Trust  
71 Fund within the Department of Health and shall be used solely to  
72 support and maintain the goals and functions of the center.  
73 Before giving a nurse the opportunity to contribute to funding  
74 the center at the time of licensure renewal, the Board of  
75 Nursing shall provide the nurse with a summary of the center's  
76 work, a link to the center's Internet website, and the following  
77 statement: "The Florida Center for Nursing's operating revenues  
78 are derived in part from your donation. In order for the Florida  
79 Center for Nursing to continue its work on behalf of nurses,  
80 please donate."

81 (4) The center may request from the board, and the board  
82 must provide to the center upon its request, any information  
83 held by the board regarding nurses licensed in this state or  
84 holding a multistate license pursuant to s. 464.0095 or  
85 information reported to the board by employers of such nurses,  
86 other than personal identifying information.

87 (5) The center shall administer the Linking Industry to  
88 Nursing Education (LINE) Fund pursuant to s. 1009.8962.

89 (a) The center shall proactively promote to eligible  
90 institutions the availability of matching funds through the LINE  
91 Fund before the opening of the annual application period.

92 (b) The center shall provide technical assistance to  
93 eligible institutions before, during, and after the award  
94 process to maximize the success of the program statewide.

95 (c) To administer the application, evaluation, and  
96 distribution of LINE Fund grants under s. 1009.8962, the center  
97 shall develop and make publicly available on its website the  
98 guidelines for the LINE Fund administration, including:



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99           1. Any application procedures and deadlines.

100           2. The criteria for program eligibility and funding  
101 priorities.

102           3. A preapproval process to assist applicants with planning  
103 for the annual application process.

104           4. A process to ensure the fair evaluation of all submitted  
105 proposals and determination of award recipients.

106           5. The process that each type of eligible institution must  
107 follow to certify the receipt of the pledged contributions from  
108 any partner organizations before receiving any matching state  
109 funds.

110           6. Reporting and accountability standards for grant  
111 recipients that apply for or receive LINE funds, including  
112 actions the center may consider when an institution materially  
113 fails to comply with any program requirements or standards.

114           ~~(6)~~(5) No later than each January 10, the center shall  
115 submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
116 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives providing  
117 details of its activities during the preceding calendar year in  
118 pursuit of its goals and in the execution of its duties under  
119 subsection (2), including a nursing education program report.  
120 The center shall annually update the report no later than  
121 February 10, to include data related to the NCLEX examination.

122           Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (18) of  
123 section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 7 of  
124 chapter 2025-199, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

125           1009.26 Fee waivers.—

126           (18) (a) For every course in a Program of Strategic  
127 Emphasis, or in a state-approved teacher preparation program



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128 identified by the Board of Governors, as identified in  
129 subparagraph 3., in which a student is enrolled and has out-of-  
130 pocket expenses for tuition and fees after all other federal,  
131 state, and institutional gift aid is applied, a state university  
132 shall waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees of the student's  
133 out-of-pocket expenses for an equivalent course in such program  
134 for a student who:

135 1. Is a resident for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21.

136 2. Has earned at least 60 semester credit hours towards a  
137 baccalaureate degree within 2 academic years after initial  
138 enrollment at a Florida public postsecondary institution.

139 3. Enrolls in one of 10 Programs of Strategic Emphasis as  
140 adopted by the Board of Governors or a state-approved teacher  
141 preparation program. The Board of Governors shall adopt eight  
142 Programs of Strategic Emphasis in science, technology,  
143 engineering, or math; beginning with the 2022-2023 academic  
144 year, two Programs of Strategic Emphasis in the critical  
145 workforce gap analysis category; and beginning with the 2023-  
146 2024 academic year, two state-approved teacher preparation  
147 programs for which a student may be eligible to receive the  
148 tuition and fee waiver authorized by this subsection. The  
149 programs identified by the board must reflect the priorities of  
150 the state and be offered at a majority of state universities at  
151 the time the Board of Governors approves the list.

152 ~~(c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a~~  
153 ~~state-approved teacher preparation program, the tuition and fees~~  
154 ~~waived under this subsection must be reported for state funding~~  
155 ~~purposes under ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed~~  
156 ~~to the student. The amount disbursed to the student must be~~



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157 ~~equal to the award amount the student has received under s.~~  
158 ~~1009.534(3) or s. 1009.535(2).~~

159 Section 3. Subsections (2) through (10) of section  
160 1009.8962, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

161 1009.8962 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE)  
162 Fund.—

163 (2) Recognizing that the state has a persistent and growing  
164 nursing shortage and shortages in other related health science  
165 professions, it is the intent of the Legislature to address this  
166 critical workforce need by incentivizing collaboration between  
167 nursing education and related health science programs and health  
168 care partners through the establishment of the LINE Fund. This  
169 fund is intended to meet local, regional, and state workforce  
170 demand by recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing  
171 the capacity of high-quality nursing education and related  
172 health science programs, and increasing the number of nursing  
173 education and related health science program graduates who are  
174 prepared and licensed to enter the workforce.

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

176 (a) “Center” means the Florida Center for Nursing within  
177 the University of South Florida, established by s. 464.0195.

178 (b) ~~(a)~~ “Health care partner” means a health care provider  
179 as defined in s. 768.38(2) that is licensed to operate in this  
180 state. The center may also consider any of the following types  
181 of organizations that are connected to nursing education or the  
182 nursing workforce as a “health care partner” for the purpose of  
183 evaluating an institution’s proposal and a pledged contribution  
184 for matching LINE funds:

185 1. An organization that manufactures or sells durable



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186 medical equipment or simulation equipment that demonstrably  
187 enhances or supplements a nursing student's education.

188 2. An organization that provides educational materials or  
189 instruction related to preparation to pass a nationally  
190 recognized nursing licensure examination.

191 3. A health care organization active in this state which  
192 employs or uses licensed nurses to deliver direct patient care.

193 4. A nonprofit organization or fund with a 501(c)(3)  
194 designation registered in this state for at least 2 years before  
195 the date of the initial LINE grant application which is  
196 organized primarily, or which makes other reportable charitable  
197 contributions, to support the health care workforce of this  
198 state through training or the continuing education of health  
199 care professionals.

200 5. A direct-support organization of an eligible applicant  
201 whose match contribution supports an eligible purpose of the  
202 grant.

203 (c) ~~(b)~~ "Institution" means a school district career center  
204 under s. 1001.44; a charter technical career center under s.  
205 1002.34; a Florida College System institution; a state  
206 university; an independent nonprofit college or university  
207 located and chartered in this state and accredited by an agency  
208 or association that is recognized by the database created and  
209 maintained by the United States Department of Education to grant  
210 baccalaureate degrees; or an independent school, college, or  
211 university with an accredited program as defined in s. 464.003  
212 which is located in this state and licensed by the Commission  
213 for Independent Education pursuant to s. 1005.31, or an  
214 institution authorized under s. 1009.521, which has a nursing



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215 education program that meets or exceeds the following:

216 1. For a certified nursing assistant program, a completion  
217 rate of no more than 10 percent below the current national  
218 average ~~of at least 70 percent for the prior year.~~

219 2. For a licensed practical nurse, associate of science in  
220 nursing, and bachelor of science in nursing program, a first-  
221 time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of  
222 Nursing Licensing Examination of no more than 10 percent below  
223 the current national average, ~~of at least 75 percent for the~~  
224 ~~prior year~~ based on a minimum of 10 testing participants.

225 (d) "Related health science" means a program that prepares  
226 graduates to provide direct patient care or diagnostic services  
227 that advance patient care in a health care setting, as defined  
228 in s. 408.802, which are outlined in the State Board of  
229 Education's Career and Technical Education Health Science  
230 curriculum framework, and which are identified by the Department  
231 of Education pursuant to subsection (10).

232 (e) ~~(e)~~ "Student" means a person who is a resident for  
233 tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21 and enrolled in a  
234 nursing education or a related health science education degree  
235 or certificate program at an institution that is part of the  
236 State Board of Education's Career and Technical Education Health  
237 Science curriculum framework.

238 (4) The LINE Fund shall be administered by the center ~~Board~~  
239 ~~of Governors for state universities and the Department of~~  
240 ~~Education for all other institutions.~~

241 (5) Subject to available funds and the approval of an  
242 application by the center, for every dollar contributed to an  
243 institution by a health care partner, the fund shall provide a



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244 dollar-to-dollar match to the participating institution to  
245 implement the activities outlined in the institution's approved  
246 proposal. Subject to available funds, the fund may also provide  
247 a dollar-to-dollar match to the participating institution for  
248 every dollar contributed to an institution or its direct-support  
249 organization by an individual or entity that does not meet the  
250 definition of a health care partner, provided the contribution  
251 supports an eligible purpose of the LINE Fund. Contributions  
252 from health care partners shall receive priority awarding  
253 matching.

254 (6) (a) Funds may be used for student scholarships;;  
255 recruitment of additional faculty and clinical preceptors;  
256 increasing program enrollment, program completion, and licensure  
257 exam passage rates;; equipment;; and simulation centers,  
258 internships, and clinical preceptorships; and other related  
259 activities determined by the center to advance high-quality  
260 nursing education programs and to expand the qualified nursing  
261 workforce and related health science professions throughout the  
262 state.

263 (b) Funds may not be used for the construction of new  
264 buildings but may be used to expand, retrofit, or upgrade  
265 existing facilities if the proposal will result in increased  
266 program enrollments or improved or modernized educational or  
267 simulation space for nursing education or related health science  
268 students.

269 (7) (a) To participate, an institution must submit a timely  
270 and completed proposal to the center ~~Board of Governors or~~  
271 ~~Department of Education,~~ in a standardized format developed  
272 under s. s. 464.0195(5) ~~prescribed by the Board of Governors or~~



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273 ~~Department of Education, as applicable.~~

274 (b) The proposal must identify the specific a health care  
275 partner ~~located and licensed to operate in the state~~ whose  
276 monetary or nonmonetary contributions will be matched by the  
277 fund on a dollar-to-dollar basis if the proposal is approved by  
278 the center.

279 1. Examples of allowable nonmonetary LINE Fund  
280 contributions from health care partners include, but are not  
281 limited to, the value of the donated use of health care partner  
282 employees as nursing program instructors or clinical preceptors;  
283 the value of the donated use of a health care partner's space or  
284 equipment by a nursing education program; or the value of  
285 donated goods and services, such as educational or simulation  
286 equipment, licensure exam preparation materials and instruction,  
287 or other similar quantifiable donated goods and services deemed  
288 by the center to be good faith contributions that support the  
289 goals of the LINE Fund.

290 2. To accept nonmonetary contributions as health care  
291 partner matching funds, the applicant and the center must  
292 quantify the value of the contribution in dollars and certify  
293 that the proposed contribution directly supports the goals of  
294 the LINE Fund outlined in subsection (1).

295 (c) Proposals for related health science programs other  
296 than nursing may be considered, but may not be prioritized over  
297 nursing programs. The proposal for such programs must be part of  
298 the State Board of Education's Career and Technical Education  
299 Health Science curriculum framework and include evidence that a  
300 material regional workforce demand exists for that related  
301 health science program.



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302           (8) (a) The center ~~Board of Governors or Department of~~  
303 ~~Education, as applicable,~~ must review and evaluate each  
304 completed and timely submitted proposal according to the  
305 following minimum criteria, where applicable:

306           1. (a) Whether funds committed by the health care partner  
307 will contribute to an eligible purpose.

308           2. (b) How the institution plans to use the funds, including  
309 how such funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment,  
310 ~~and~~ program completion, or licensure exam test-takers or passage  
311 rates.

312           3. (c) How the health care partner will onboard and retain  
313 graduates or otherwise improve the likelihood that graduates  
314 will successfully join the state or local workforce.

315           4. (d) How the funds will expand the institution's nursing  
316 education and related health science programs to meet local,  
317 regional, or state workforce demands. ~~If applicable, this shall~~  
318 ~~include~~

319           5. How the proposal will enhance opportunities to pursue  
320 and complete advanced ~~education~~ nursing education programs.

321           6. and How the funds will increase the number of faculty  
322 and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the  
323 clinical placement process established in s. 14.36.

324           (b) The center may assign priority consideration for grant  
325 applications that will improve services in underserved  
326 geographic areas or for programs and partnerships that address  
327 the greatest workforce needs or gaps identified under s.  
328 464.0195.

329           (c) After reviewing and evaluating each timely submitted  
330 proposal, the center must notify each applicant regarding which



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331 of the following categories each of the institution's proposals  
332 has been classified into, and provide a brief explanation for  
333 the center's principal reason or reasons for reaching its  
334 determination:

- 335       1. Approved;  
336       2. Provisionally Approved;  
337       3. Approved, Pending Available Funding; or  
338       4. Denied for Funding.

339       (d) As used in this subsection, the term:

340       1. "Approved" means that the center agrees that the  
341 institution's proposal meets the criteria and intent of this  
342 section, and the proposal will receive matching LINE funding  
343 upon certification of the receipt of the health care partner's  
344 contribution.

345       2. "Provisionally Approved" means that the center agrees  
346 that the institution's proposal makes a good faith effort to  
347 meet the criteria and intent of this section, but the center  
348 determined that additional information or amendments to the  
349 proposal are necessary to bring the proposal into full  
350 compliance with the requirements of this section.

351       a. The center may offer technical assistance to the  
352 applying institution to ensure its resubmitted application meets  
353 the full program requirements for funding.

354       b. A Provisionally Approved proposal, if timely  
355 resubmitted, may immediately move to an Approved proposal if the  
356 center determines that the resubmitted proposal meets the full  
357 requirements of this section, that sufficient LINE funds are  
358 available to match the proposal, and that the proposal addresses  
359 a high priority need for the state, such as serving underserved



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360 geographic areas or closing identified workforce gaps.

361 3. "Approved, Pending Available Funding" means that the  
362 center agrees that the institution's proposal, or resubmitted  
363 proposal, meets the criteria and intent of this section, but the  
364 proposal will not receive matching LINE funds unless additional  
365 LINE funding becomes available later in the fiscal year. The  
366 availability of LINE Fund dollars to match proposals classified  
367 as Approved, Pending Available Funding may result from:

368 a. The failure of another approved awardee to timely  
369 certify the actual receipt of a health care partner's pledged  
370 contributions.

371 b. Additional savings identified by the center from  
372 previously appropriated LINE funds.

373 c. A balance in the LINE Fund due to a lack of approved  
374 proposals from a type of nursing education program, health  
375 science program, or institution for which a specified amount of  
376 LINE funds was identified in the General Appropriations Act for  
377 a particular fiscal year. The center may set a date on or after  
378 February 1 of each year when the center determines that an  
379 insufficient number of approved or provisionally approved  
380 proposals exist from the institutions provided priority  
381 consideration by the Legislature in that fiscal year. After the  
382 noticed date, the center may redistribute any remaining LINE  
383 funds to highly ranked Approved, Pending Available Funding  
384 proposals from any type of program or institution that can  
385 certify, before June 30, the receipt of its health care  
386 partner's contribution.

387 4. "Denied for Funding" means that the institution's  
388 proposal does not meet the full criteria or intent of this



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389 section or that the institution has not timely certified the  
390 receipt of an allowable health care partner's contribution.

391 (9) (a) Each institution with an approved proposal must  
392 certify to the center in a manner prescribed under s.  
393 464.0195(5) the shall notify the Board of Governors or  
394 Department of Education, as applicable, upon receipt of the  
395 health care partner's contribution partner provided funds  
396 identified in the approved proposal. The center may Board of  
397 Governors or Department of Education, as applicable, shall  
398 release grant funds, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the  
399 amount of the contribution certified as funds received by the  
400 institution, including certifications made on a rolling or  
401 periodic basis.

402 (b) If deemed to meet the long-term goals of the LINE Fund,  
403 the center may award funds for an approved proposal for up to 3  
404 academic years immediately following the academic year within  
405 which the initial approval is granted. If the center approves a  
406 multiyear award to an institution, it must notify the recipient  
407 that the award amount in subsequent years is subject to a LINE  
408 Fund appropriation and the continued certification of the health  
409 care partner's contribution to match the multiyear award of  
410 state funds.

411 (c) ~~(b)~~ Annually, by February 1, each institution awarded  
412 grant funds in the previous fiscal year shall submit a report to  
413 the center which Board of Governors or Department of Education,  
414 as applicable, that demonstrates the expansion as outlined in  
415 the proposal and the use of funds. At minimum, the report must  
416 include, by program level, the number of additional nursing  
417 education and related health science students enrolled; if



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418 scholarships were awarded using grant funds, the number of  
419 students who received scholarships and the average award amount;  
420 and the outcomes of students as reported by the Office of  
421 Reimagining Education and Career Help pursuant to s.  
422 14.36(3)(1).

423 (10) (a) The Department of Education shall serve as the lead  
424 entity for identifying and maintaining related health science  
425 programs eligible for participation in the LINE Fund.

426 (b) In carrying out this subsection, the department shall  
427 apply the State Board of Education's Career and Technical  
428 Education Health Science framework as the basis for determining  
429 program eligibility.

430 (c) No later than October 1, 2026, the department shall  
431 compile and publish an initial list of LINE-eligible related  
432 health science programs. In developing the list, the department  
433 shall:

434 1. Compile the current Career and Technical Education  
435 Health Science pathways and programs;

436 2. Identify aligned health science programs offered  
437 through:

438 a. District technical colleges and career centers; and

439 b. Florida College System institutions offering Career and  
440 Technical Education-aligned health science certificates and  
441 degrees;

442 3. Establish and apply alignment criteria, including  
443 credential type and applicable licensure or certification  
444 outcomes; and

445 4. Publish and maintain an approved list of LINE-eligible  
446 health science programs for use in administering the LINE Fund.



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447       (d) The department shall review and update the list  
448 annually to reflect updates to the Career and Technical  
449 Education Health Science framework and changes to eligible  
450 program offerings.

451       (e) The Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help  
452 shall provide workforce and labor market demand data, including  
453 information on statewide and regional health care workforce  
454 shortages, projected job growth, and occupational demand, to the  
455 department to support data-informed prioritization of LINE  
456 funding. The office may not determine program eligibility ~~The~~  
457 ~~Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and the State Board~~  
458 ~~of Education shall adopt rules to administer the fund, establish~~  
459 ~~dates for the submission and review of proposals, award funds,~~  
460 ~~and other regulations and rules necessary to implement this~~  
461 ~~section.~~

462           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

463  
464 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

465 And the title is amended as follows:

466           Delete everything before the enacting clause  
467 and insert:

468                           A bill to be entitled  
469           An act relating to higher education; amending s.  
470           464.0195, F.S.; establishing the Florida Center for  
471           Nursing within the University of South Florida;  
472           requiring the center to administer the Linking  
473           Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund; requiring  
474           the center to promote certain funds and provide  
475           technical assistance during a specified timeframe;



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476 requiring the center to develop certain guidelines and  
477 make them publicly available on its website; providing  
478 requirements for the administration of LINE funds;  
479 amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; providing that a specified  
480 fee waiver applies to a student's out-of-pocket  
481 expenses for tuition and fees after other aid is  
482 applied; deleting a requirement for a state university  
483 to report and disburse certain waived fees; deleting a  
484 requirement for disbursement; amending s. 1009.8962,  
485 F.S.; providing that the LINE Fund was established for  
486 shortages in health science professions in addition to  
487 nursing; defining terms; requiring that the LINE Fund  
488 be administered by the Florida Center for Nursing  
489 within the University of South Florida, rather than  
490 the Board of Governors and the Department of  
491 Education; providing that funding is subject to  
492 approval of an application by the center; authorizing  
493 the fund to match certain contributions if funds are  
494 available; revising how funds may be used; providing  
495 exceptions to certain prohibitions on the use of  
496 funds; revising requirements for a proposal for LINE  
497 funds submitted by an institution; providing that  
498 proposals for related health science programs may not  
499 be prioritized over nursing programs; revising  
500 requirements for the center to evaluate submitted  
501 proposals; authorizing the center to prioritize  
502 certain grant applications; requiring the center to  
503 notify each applicant of its determination; defining  
504 terms; requiring an institution with an approved



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505 proposal to certify the health care partner's  
506 contribution in a specified manner; authorizing the  
507 center to award funds for up to 3 academic years;  
508 requiring institutions awarded grant funds to submit  
509 an annual report by a certain date to the center  
510 instead of the Board of Governors or the Department of  
511 Education; providing that the Department of Education  
512 is the lead entity for identifying and maintaining  
513 which health science programs are eligible for LINE  
514 funds; requiring the department to compile and publish  
515 a list of eligible programs by a specified date;  
516 requiring the department to review and update the list  
517 annually; requiring the Office of Reimagining  
518 Education and Career Help to provide specified data to  
519 the department; deleting a requirement for the Board  
520 of Governors to adopt regulations and the State Board  
521 of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective  
522 date.