
SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2023 Regular Session

Substitute for Original Senate Bill No. 181 by Senator Cloud as proposed by Senate Committee on Finance.

This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.

To enact Chapter 37 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1951, to be comprised of R.S. 51:2201 through 2202, and 2312(A)(11), relative to health care workforce initiatives; to create the Expanding Louisiana's Health Care Workforce Fund; to provide for the Expanding Louisiana's Health Care Workforce Program; to provide for grants to expand health care workforce training; to provide for the creation of commission; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 37 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1951, comprised of R.S. 51:2201 through 2202, and 2312(A)(11) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 37. EXPANDING LOUISIANA'S

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE FUND

§2201. Expanding Louisiana's Health Care Workforce Fund

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury, as a special fund, the Expanding Louisiana's Health Care Workforce Fund, hereinafter referred to in this Section as the "fund."

B. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earned on the investment of monies in the fund shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. Any unexpended and unencumbered monies remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

C. Monies in the fund shall be appropriated by the legislature be used solely to provide grant funding pursuant to the Expanding Louisiana's Health Care Workforce Program as provided in this Chapter.

§2202. Expanding Louisiana's Health Care Workforce Program

A. The Expanding Louisiana's Health Care Workforce Program is hereby established within the Department of Economic Development and shall be administered by the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation. The purpose of the program is to develop and provide grant funding for collaborations between health care employers and post-secondary education institutions to expand the capacity of the state to recruit, educate, and retain nursing and allied health professionals.

B. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Commission" means the Expanding Health Care Workforce Commission.

(2) "Corporation" means the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation.

(3) "Department" means the Department of Economic Development.

(4) "Fund" means the Expanding Health Care Workforce Fund.

(5) "Labor demand occupation" means an occupation for which there is or is likely to be a greater demand than supply of adequately trained workers.

(6) "Program" means the Workforce Development and Training Program.

(7) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Department of Economic Development.

C.(1) The Expanding Health Care Workforce Commission is hereby established to review applications submitted pursuant to the Expanding Health Care Workforce Program and to approve applications for receipt of grant funding.

(2) The commission shall be comprised of the following members:

(a) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives representing the first, third, and fifth congressional districts.

(b) Three members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate representing the second, fourth, and sixth congressional districts.

(3) A Senate member of the commission and a House member of the commission shall serve as co-chairmen of the commission.

(4) A quorum of the commission shall be four members. Approval of funding for proposals shall require a quorum of the commission.

(5) The staffs of the Senate, House of Representatives, and legislative fiscal office shall provide staff support and otherwise assist the commission as requested by the commission.

D.(1) The Department shall administer the program. It shall review the applications submitted and submit those applications eligible for the grant program to the corporation for rating and recommendation for funding to the commission.

(2) The corporation shall rate the applications in accordance with the published guidance required under Subsection (E) of this Section and recommend applications for approval to the commission.

E.(1) The department shall publish guidance for the administration of the program. The guidance shall include application requirements, application period dates and deadlines for submissions and approval, criteria for ratings, and a process for prioritizing health care workforce needs in the various regions of the state. The prioritization shall take into account the degree to which measurable goals are established, the degree to which the grant demonstrates regional collaboration between healthcare providers and academic institutions as well as for programs that train high-demand healthcare professionals to practice in the region. The program shall also provide opportunities for rural and safety-net health care employers to participate in the program. The Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., shall not apply to guidance promulgated pursuant to this Subsection. The department shall submit the proposed guidance to the commission for review and approval. Any changes to the guidance shall require approval by the commission.

(2) Primary applicants for grant funding through the program shall be Louisiana licensed health care facilities. Primary applicants may designate a third party to serve as the administrator of the grant funding.

(3) Prior to the application period, the department shall conduct outreach and educational efforts to raise awareness regarding the program.

(4) The department shall post on its website a copy of the guidance promulgated pursuant to this Subsection as well as any additional information regarding the program, including the application process, procurement, or scoring criteria upon request of the commission.

F. In addition to the guidance provided for in Subsection E of this Section, the department shall submit a proposal outlining administrative costs for the program to the commission for review and approval prior to implementing the program. The commission shall review and approve the proposed administrative costs.

G. Each grant recipient shall be required to provide cash or in-kind funding in support of the overall costs of the grant application. However, the commission may waive the shared funding requirement.

H. The commission shall review and approve the recommendations submitted by the corporation. Upon approval of a grant funding application by the commission, the department shall execute any necessary agreements to effectuate the approved grant application.

I.(1) (a) The commission may approve adjustments to any grant award for a project for any of the following reasons:

(i) Duplication of benefits.

(ii) Increase in proposal costs, not to exceed five percent of the total grant award for a proposal.

(iii) The inability of a grant recipient to complete one or more proposals within the scope of the grant award.

(iv) Technical corrections.

(2) The commission may rescind any grant award for a project if the grant recipient fails to comply with the guidance approved by the commission.

J. The department shall submit an annual summary of grant applications that received funding approval to the commission and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

