
HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2024 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to Original House Bill No. 329 by Representative Myers

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, delete "R.S. 17:3050.11(C)(1)," and insert "R.S. 17:3050.11(C)(1)(introductory paragraph), (D), (E), and (F) and to enact R.S. 17:3050.11(C)(1)(d), (e), and (f), (G), and (H),"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 4, after "fund;" and before "and" insert the following:

"to provide for the purposes and priorities of the fund; to provide for grant opportunities; to provide for procedures for grant proposals and awards; to provide for the authority of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; to provide for reporting by the department and grantees; to provide for the authority of the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for the promulgation of rules;"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, delete line 6 and insert "Section 1. R.S. 17:3050.11(C)(1)(introductory paragraph), (D), (E), and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3050.11(C)(1)(d), (e), and (f), (G), and (H) are hereby enacted to read as"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, at the end of line 10, delete "and the approval of the Board of" and at the beginning of line 11, delete "Regents, the Louisiana Health Works Commission" and insert "the Louisiana Department of Health, hereinafter referred to in this Section as "department","

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 1, at the end of line 13, delete "and" and delete line 14 and insert a colon ":"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 1, delete lines 15 through 20 and on page 2, delete lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

* * *

(d) Support dual enrollment and pathway programs between high school career and technical programs and other healthcare programs.

(e) Support strategies for healthcare organizations to increase career pathways and apprenticeship programs.

(f) Raise awareness of and interest in a broad variety of healthcare occupations and reduce the barriers to access to the healthcare programs necessary to pursue these occupations, including financial barriers.

* * *

D.(1) The department may utilize monies for funding grant proposals that support joint efforts between healthcare industry partners and education programs for the purpose of increasing training opportunities for Louisiana residents who are seeking enrollment or are currently enrolled in healthcare education programs in Louisiana.

1 (2) At least annually, the department shall publish a notice of funding
 2 opportunity on its website for not less than sixty days prior to the deadline to submit
 3 a notice of intent to apply for a grant. The notification of funding opportunity shall
 4 include all of the following:

5 (a) The grant period.

6 (b) The date by which to submit a notice of intent to apply for a grant.

7 (c) The deadline to apply for the grant. Proposals shall be accepted as early
 8 as thirty days following the notice of intent deadline.

9 (d) The dollar amount of available grant awards.

10 (3) Grant proposals shall include the following components which shall be
 11 used to prioritize funding along with the evaluation criteria established in Paragraph
 12 (4) of this Subsection:

13 (a) The total amount of funds requested and a detailed budget for the
 14 expenditure of these funds, including personnel, operating expenses, equipment
 15 acquisitions, training expenses, and other allowable expenses as outlined in the
 16 administrative rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Section.

17 (b) A narrative explaining how the grant award will increase training of
 18 nursing and allied healthcare providers and specific deliverables of the healthcare
 19 industry partner and the education program.

20 (c) A declaration that statutory requirements shall be satisfied.

21 (d) A statement that the healthcare industry partner shall match at least dollar
 22 for dollar an amount equal to the grant award, with monies or in-kind contributions.
 23 The statement shall indicate the cash or in-kind amounts the healthcare partner plans
 24 to contribute.

25 (4) The department shall evaluate and rank each completed and timely
 26 submitted proposal. The department shall consider the strength of the proposed
 27 programs, the geographic location of the proposals, and statewide workforce
 28 demands in order to promote the distribution of grant awards and avoid a
 29 concentration of grant awards in any single region of the state. The department shall
 30 evaluate the proposals on all of the following minimum criteria:

31 (a) Whether the funds committed by the healthcare industry partner will
 32 contribute to an eligible purpose.

33 (b) How the funds will be utilized to increase enrollment and program
 34 completion.

35 (c) How the healthcare industry partner will onboard and retain graduates.

36 (d) How the funds will expand nursing and allied health education programs
 37 to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, this shall include
 38 advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number
 39 of faculty and clinical preceptors.

40 (5) Prior to issuing a notice of award to any grantee, the department shall
 41 submit the proposed grant awards to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget
 42 for approval. The department shall award grant funding to eligible grant proposals
 43 based on Paragraphs (3) and (4) of this Subsection and any applicable rules and
 44 regulations promulgated pursuant to this Section. The department shall notify the
 45 grant applicant of the approved proposals and award amounts.

46 (6) Prior to the release of a grant award, the grantee shall provide to the
 47 department documentation of the grantee's cash or in-kind contribution.

48 (7) Awards shall be released on no more than a quarterly basis.

49 (8) Each grantee shall submit a report to the department on performance
 50 metrics and outcomes pursuant to the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to
 51 this Section.

52 E. On or before October first of each calendar year, the ~~Louisiana Health~~
 53 ~~Works Commission~~ department shall submit a plan of fund allocation to the ~~Board~~
 54 ~~of Regents~~ House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on
 55 Health and Welfare, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

56 E. F. The ~~Board of Regents~~ department shall submit a comprehensive annual
 57 report to the ~~Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Appropriations~~
 58 Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, the Senate Committee on Health and

1 Welfare, and the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days
2 after the end of the fiscal year in which the monies were appropriated.

3 ~~F. The provisions of this Section shall terminate on July 1, 2026, or when all~~
4 ~~of the monies in the fund have been expended, whichever occurs first. Any monies~~
5 ~~remaining in the fund on July 1, 2026, shall be transferred by the state treasurer to~~
6 ~~the state general fund.~~

7 G. The department may enter into any contract, memorandum of
8 understanding, or cooperative endeavor agreement with a grantee, healthcare
9 industry partner, or education program that may be necessary to effectuate the
10 provisions of this Section.

11 H. The department shall promulgate rules and adopt regulations, in
12 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to implement the provisions of
13 this Section.

14 Section 2. The Louisiana Board of Regents may utilize and expend monies in the
15 Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund to continue to fund
16 any grant obligated or awarded by the Board of Regents on or before April 1, 2024.

17 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
18 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
19 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
20 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
21 effective on the day following such approval."