

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 607 (HB 329)

2024 Regular Session

Myers

Existing law establishes the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund. Prior law provided for administration by the Bd. of Regents (Regents) and the La. Health Works Commission (commission). New law provides for administration by the La. Dept. of Health (LDH).

Existing law provides for fund purposes. New law adds the following to its purposes: supporting dual enrollment and pathway programs between high school career and technical programs and other healthcare programs, supporting strategies for healthcare organizations to increase career pathways and apprenticeship programs, and raising interest in healthcare occupations. Further authorizes LDH to use fund monies for the following:

- (1) Grant proposals for healthcare training and education programs.
- (2) Nursing or allied health internships at licensed healthcare providers.
- (3) Grant proposals to support joint efforts between healthcare industry partners and education programs to increase training opportunities.
- (4) LDH administrative costs, not to exceed 10% of the fund annually.

New law requires LDH to:

- (1) Publish a notice of funding opportunity on its website for not less than 60 days prior to the grant application deadline.
- (2) Evaluate and rank grant proposals.

New law provides that awards shall be released on no more than a quarterly basis. Subjects the awarding of grants to the approval of the Jt. Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB).

Existing law requires submission of a plan for fund allocation. Prior law required the commission to submit it to Regents by Oct. 1st annually. New law requires LDH to submit a plan for the next fiscal year to the House and Senate health and welfare committees and JLCB by March 1st annually.

Existing law requires submission of a comprehensive annual report not later than 60 days prior to the end of the fiscal year to the House and Senate health and welfare committees. Prior law required Regents to submit this to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance. New law requires LDH to submit it to JLCB.

Prior law provided for fund termination on July 1, 2026, or upon expenditure of all monies in the fund, whichever occurred first. Required any remaining monies in the fund to be transferred to the state general fund. New law removes prior law.

New law requires LDH to promulgate rules for new law implementation and authorizes it to enter into contracts, memoranda of understanding, and cooperative endeavor agreements to effectuate new law. Requires Regents to assist LDH with information and documentation on training and education programs and institutions related to nursing and allied health professions. New law allows Regents to continue to administer fund monies obligated or awarded prior to April 1, 2024.

Effective July 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 17:3050.11(C)(1)(intro. para.), (D), (E), and (F); Adds R.S. 17:3050.11(C)(1)(d), (e), and (f), (G), (H), and (I))