

By Senator Klein

28-1576-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to arthritis; creating s.  
3           385.21, F.S.; creating the "Arthritis  
4           Prevention and Control Act"; providing purposes  
5           of the act; requiring the Department of Health  
6           to establish an Arthritis Prevention and  
7           Control Program; requiring the department to  
8           conduct a needs assessment; providing for the  
9           establishment of an Advisory Panel on  
10          Arthritis; requiring the department to promote  
11          public awareness of and knowledge concerning  
12          arthritis; allowing the Secretary of Health to  
13          accept certain contributions; providing  
14          authority to seek federal waivers; providing an  
15          effective date.

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17           WHEREAS, arthritis encompasses more than 100 diseases  
18          and conditions that affect joints, the surrounding tissues,  
19          and other connective tissues, and

20           WHEREAS, arthritis is the leading case of disability in  
21          the United States, limiting daily activities for more than 7  
22          million individuals, and

23           WHEREAS, this disease has a significant effect on  
24          quality of life, not only for the individual who experiences  
25          its painful symptoms and resulting disability, but also for  
26          family members and caregivers, and

27           WHEREAS, the enormous economic and social costs  
28          associated with treating arthritis and its complications are  
29          estimated at almost \$80 billion annually in the United States,  
30          and

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1 WHEREAS, currently the challenge exists to ensure  
2 delivery of effective, but often underutilized, interventions  
3 that are necessary in the prevention or reduction of  
4 arthritis-related pain and disability, and

5 WHEREAS, although there exists a large quantity of  
6 public information and programs about arthritis, it remains  
7 inadequately disseminated and insufficient in addressing the  
8 needs of specific diverse populations and other underserved  
9 groups, and

10 WHEREAS, the Arthritis Foundation, Florida Chapter, the  
11 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the  
12 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials have led  
13 the development of a public-health strategy, the National  
14 Arthritis Action Plan, to respond to this challenge, and

15 WHEREAS, Educating the public and the health-care  
16 community throughout the state about this devastating disease  
17 is of paramount importance and is in every respect in the  
18 public interest and to the benefit of all residents of the  
19 State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

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21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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23 Section 1. Section 385.21, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 385.21 Arthritis Prevention and Control Act; purposes;  
26 program; needs assessment; advisory panel; public awareness.--

27 (1) SHORT TITLE.--This section may be cited as the  
28 "Arthritis Prevention and Control Act."

29 (2) PURPOSES.--The purposes of this section are:

30 (a) To create and foster a statewide program that  
31 promotes public awareness and increases knowledge about the

1 causes of arthritis, the importance of early diagnosis and  
2 appropriate management, effective prevention strategies, and  
3 pain prevention and management;

4 (b) To develop knowledge and enhance understanding of  
5 arthritis by disseminating educational materials, information  
6 on research results, services provided, and strategies for  
7 prevention and control to patients, health professionals, and  
8 the public;

9 (c) To establish a solid scientific base of knowledge  
10 on the prevention of arthritis and related disability through  
11 surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention research;

12 (d) To use educational and training resources and  
13 services developed by organizations that have appropriate  
14 expertise and knowledge of arthritis and to use available  
15 technical assistance.

16 (e) To evaluate the need for improving the quality and  
17 accessibility of existing community-based arthritis services;

18 (f) To heighten awareness about the prevention,  
19 detection, and treatment of arthritis among state and local  
20 health and human-services officials, health professionals and  
21 providers, and policymakers;

22 (g) To implement and coordinate state and local  
23 programs and services to reduce the public-health burden of  
24 arthritis; and

25 (h) To provide lasting improvements in the delivery of  
26 health care for individuals who have arthritis and their  
27 families, thus improving their quality of life while also  
28 containing health-care costs.

29 (3) ARTHRITIS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.--The  
30 Department of Health shall establish, promote, and maintain an  
31 Arthritis Prevention and Control Program for the purposes of

1 raising public awareness, educating consumers, and educating  
2 and training healthcare professionals, teachers, and human  
3 services providers, and for other related purposes.

4 (4) NEEDS ASSESSMENT.--The department shall conduct a  
5 needs assessment to identify:

6 (a) Epidemiological and other public-health research  
7 that is being conducted within the state;

8 (b) Available technical assistance and educational  
9 materials and programs nationwide and within the state;

10 (c) The level of public and professional arthritis  
11 awareness;

12 (d) The needs of people who have arthritis, their  
13 families, and their caregivers;

14 (e) Educational and support-service needs of  
15 healthcare providers, including physicians, nurses,  
16 managed-care organizations, and other healthcare providers;

17 (f) The services available to a person who has  
18 arthritis;

19 (g) The existence of arthritis treatment,  
20 self-management, physical activity, and other education  
21 programs; and

22 (h) The existence of rehabilitation services.

23 (5) ADVISORY PANEL ON ARTHRITIS.--The Department of  
24 Health shall establish and coordinate an Advisory Panel on  
25 Arthritis, to provide nongovernmental input regarding the  
26 Arthritis Prevention and Control Program. Membership on the  
27 panel shall include, but is not limited to, persons who have  
28 arthritis, public-health educators, medical experts on  
29 arthritis, providers of arthritis health care, persons who are  
30 knowledgeable in health promotion and education, and

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1 representatives of national arthritis organizations and their  
2 local chapters.

3 (6) PUBLIC AWARENESS.--The department shall use, but  
4 is not limited to, strategies that are consistent with the  
5 National Arthritis Action Plan and existing state planning  
6 efforts to raise public awareness and knowledge of the causes  
7 and nature of arthritis, personal risk factors, the value of  
8 prevention and early detection, ways to minimize preventable  
9 pain, and options for diagnosing and treating the disease.

10 (7) CONTRIBUTIONS.--The Secretary of Health may  
11 accept, from the Federal Government, foundations,  
12 organizations, medical schools, and other entities, whatever  
13 grants, services, and property are available for the purposes  
14 of fulfilling the obligations of this program.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
16 law.

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Creates the "Arthritis Prevention and Control Act."  
21 Provides purposes of the act. Requires the Department of  
22 Health to establish an Arthritis Prevention and Control  
23 Program. Requires the department to conduct a needs  
24 assessment. Provides for the establishment of an Advisory  
25 Panel on Arthritis. Requires the department to promote  
26 public awareness of and knowledge concerning arthritis.  
27 Allows the Secretary of Health to accept contributions to  
28 further the program. Provides for seeking federal  
29 waivers.  
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