

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to biomedical research;
3 creating the Center for Universal Research to
4 Eradicate Disease; providing intent and duties;
5 creating an advisory council; amending s.
6 215.5602, F.S.; expanding the long-term goals
7 and funding of the Florida Biomedical Research
8 Program to include the cure of specified
9 diseases; creating the Florida Cancer Research
10 Cooperative; providing for a board of
11 directors; providing the cooperative's mission
12 and duties; providing an effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Center for Universal Research to Eradicate
17 Disease.

18 (1) The Legislature finds that an estimated 128
19 million Americans suffer from acute, chronic, and degenerative
20 diseases and that biomedical research is the key to finding
21 cures for these diseases that negatively affect all
22 Floridians. The Legislature further finds that, while there is
23 much research being conducted throughout this state and
24 throughout the world, there is a lack of coordination of
25 efforts among researchers. The Legislature, therefore, finds
26 that there is a significant need for a coordinated effort if
27 the goal of curing disease is to be achieved. Moreover, the
28 Legislature finds that the biomedical technology sector meets
29 the criteria of a high-impact sector, pursuant to section
30 288.108, Florida Statutes, having a high importance to this
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1 state's economy with a significant potential for growth and
2 contribution to our universities and quality of life.

3 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that Florida
4 strive to become the nation's leader in biomedical research
5 and commit itself to being the state to find cures for the
6 most deadly and widespread diseases. It is further the intent
7 of the Legislature that there be a coordinated effort among
8 the state's public and private universities and the biomedical
9 industry to discover such cures. Moreover, it is the intent of
10 the Legislature to expand the state economy by attracting
11 biomedical researchers and research companies to this state.

12 (3) There is established the Center for Universal
13 Research to Eradicate Disease, which shall be known as the
14 "CURED."

15 (a) The purpose of the center is to coordinate,
16 improve, expand, and monitor all biomedical research programs
17 within the state, facilitate funding opportunities, and foster
18 improved technology transfer of research findings into
19 clinical trials and widespread public use.

20 (b) The goal of the center is to find cures for
21 diseases such as cancer, heart disease, lung disease,
22 diabetes, and neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's
23 disease, epilepsy, and Parkinson's disease.

24 (c) The center shall hold an annual biomedical
25 technology summit in Florida to which biomedical researchers,
26 biomedical technology companies, business incubators,
27 pharmaceutical manufacturers, and others around the nation and
28 world are invited to share biomedical research findings in
29 order to expedite the discovery of cures. Summit attendees
30 will be required to cover the costs of such attendance or
31 obtain sponsorship for such attendance.

1 (d) The center shall encourage clinical trials in this
2 state on research that holds promise of curing a disease or
3 condition. The center shall facilitate partnerships between
4 researchers, treating physicians, and community hospitals for
5 the purpose of sharing new techniques and new research
6 findings, as well as coordinating voluntary donations to
7 ensure an adequate supply of adult stem cells or cord blood.

8 (e) The center shall also encourage the discovery and
9 production in Florida of vaccines that prevent disease.

10 (f) The center shall monitor the supply and demand
11 needs of researchers relating to stem cell research and other
12 types of human tissue research. If the center determines that
13 there is a need for increased donation of human tissue, it
14 shall notify hospitals licensed pursuant to chapter 395,
15 Florida Statutes, that have entered into partnership
16 agreements with research institutes conducting stem cell
17 research located in the same geographic region as the
18 researchers demanding the stem cells or other tissues. Such
19 hospitals shall then implement programs that encourage
20 voluntary donations of cord blood or other needed adult
21 tissue.

22 (g) The center shall be funded through private, state,
23 and federal sources.

24 (h) The center shall serve as a registry of all known
25 biomedical grant opportunities and may assist any public or
26 private biomedical research program in this state in preparing
27 grant requests.

28 (i) The center shall maintain a website with links to
29 peer-reviewed biomedical research. The website shall also
30 contain a list of all known biomedical research being
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1 conducted in Florida and shall facilitate communication among
2 researchers and other interested parties.

3 (j) The center shall submit an annual report to the
4 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
5 House of Representatives no later than January 15 which
6 contains recommendations for legislative change necessary to
7 foster a positive climate for biomedical research in this
8 state.

9 (k) The duties of the center may be outsourced to a
10 private entity or state university.

11 (4) There is established within the center an advisory
12 council which shall meet at least annually.

13 (a) The council shall consist of the members of the
14 board of directors of the Florida Research Consortium and at
15 least one representative from:

16 1. The Emerging Technology Commission.

17 2. Enterprise Florida, Inc.

18 3. BioFlorida.

19 4. The Florida Biomedical Research Advisory Council.

20 5. The Florida Medical Foundation.

21 6. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of
22 America.

23 (b) Members of the council shall serve without
24 compensation and each organization represented shall cover all
25 expenses of its representative.

26 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1),
27 subsection (2), and paragraph (f) of subsection (10) of
28 section 215.5602, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

29 215.5602 Florida Biomedical Research Program.--

30 (1) There is established within the Department of
31 Health the Florida Biomedical Research Program funded by the

1 proceeds of the Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund pursuant to s.
2 215.5601. The purpose of the Florida Biomedical Research
3 Program is to provide an annual and perpetual source of
4 funding in order to support research initiatives that address
5 the health care problems of Floridians in the areas of
6 tobacco-related cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and
7 pulmonary disease. The long-term goals of the program are to:

8 (a) Improve the health of Floridians by researching
9 better prevention, diagnoses, ~~and~~ treatments, and cures for
10 cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease.

11 (b) Expand the foundation of biomedical knowledge
12 relating to the prevention, diagnosis, ~~and~~ treatment, and cure
13 of diseases related to tobacco use, including cancer,
14 cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease.

15 (2) Funds appropriated for the Florida Biomedical
16 Research Program shall be used exclusively for the award of
17 grants and fellowships as established in this section; for
18 research relating to the prevention, diagnosis, ~~and~~ treatment,
19 and cure of diseases related to tobacco use, including cancer,
20 cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease; and for
21 expenses incurred in the administration of this section.
22 Priority shall be granted to research designed to prevent or
23 cure disease.

24 (10) The council shall submit an annual progress
25 report on the state of biomedical research in this state to
26 the Governor, the Secretary of Health, the President of the
27 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
28 February 1. The report must include:

29 (f) Progress in the prevention, diagnosis, ~~and~~
30 treatment, and cure of diseases related to tobacco use,
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1 including cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and
 2 pulmonary disease.

3 Section 3. Florida Cancer Research Cooperative.--

4 (1) Effective July 1, 2003, the Florida Cancer
 5 Research Cooperative is established for the purpose of making
 6 the State of Florida a world class center for cancer research.

7 (2)(a) A not-for-profit corporation, acting as an
 8 instrumentality of the Florida Dialogue on Cancer, shall be
 9 organized for the purpose of governing the affairs of the
 10 cooperative.

11 (b) The Florida Cancer Research Cooperative, Inc., may
 12 create not-for-profit corporate subsidiaries to fulfill its
 13 mission. The not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries
 14 are authorized to receive, hold, invest, and administer
 15 property and any moneys acquired from private, local, state,
 16 and federal sources, as well as technical and professional
 17 income generated or derived from the mission-related
 18 activities of the cooperative.

19 (c) The affairs of the not-for-profit corporation
 20 shall be managed by a board of directors which shall consist
 21 of:

22 1. The Secretary of the Department of Health or his or
 23 her designee;

24 2. The Chief Executive Officer of the H. Lee Moffitt
 25 Cancer Center or his or her designee;

26 3. The President of the University of Florida Shands
 27 Cancer Center or his or her designee;

28 4. The Chief Executive Officer of the University of
 29 Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center or his or her
 30 designee;

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1 5. The Chief Executive Officer of the Mayo Clinic,
2 Jacksonville or his or her designee;

3 6. The Chief Executive Officer of the American Cancer
4 Society, Florida Division or his or her designee;

5 7. The President of the American Cancer Society,
6 Florida Division Board of Directors or his or her designee;

7 8. The President of the Florida Society of Clinical
8 Oncology or his or her designee;

9 9. The Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Florida,
10 Inc., or his or her designee;

11 10. Three representatives from large Florida hospitals
12 or institutions, not delineated in subparagraphs 1. through
13 6., that treat a large volume of cancer patients. One shall be
14 appointed by the Governor, one shall be appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one shall be
16 appointed by the President of the Senate;

17 11. Three representatives from community-based,
18 statewide organizations serving populations that experience
19 cancer disparities, one of whom shall be appointed by the
20 Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed
22 by the President of the Senate;

23 12. One member of the Florida House of
24 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
25 of Representatives;

26 13. One member of the Florida Senate, to be appointed
27 by the President of the Senate;

28 14. Three university presidents, one of whom shall be
29 appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by
30 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of whom
31 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

1 15. Five representatives from other statewide public
2 health organizations whose missions include public education
3 and the eradication of cancer, three of whom shall be
4 appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by
5 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of whom
6 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

7 (d) Appointments made by the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives and the President of the Senate pursuant to
9 paragraph (c) shall be for 2-year terms, concurrent with the
10 bienniums in which they serve as presiding officers.

11 (e) Appointments made by the Governor pursuant to
12 paragraph (c) shall be for 2-year terms, although the Governor
13 may reappoint directors.

14 (f) Members of the board of directors of the
15 not-for-profit corporation or any subsidiaries shall serve
16 without compensation.

17 (3) The cooperative shall issue an annual report to
18 the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
19 the President of the Senate, by December 15 of each year, with
20 policy and funding recommendations regarding cancer research
21 capacity in Florida and related issues.

22 Section 4. Florida Cancer Research Cooperative;
23 mission and duties.--

24 (1) The cooperative shall develop and centralize the
25 processes and shared services for expanding cancer research in
26 Florida through:

27 (a) Support through bioinformatics, in order to create
28 a cancer informatics infrastructure that enhances information
29 and resource exchange and integration through researchers
30 working in diverse disciplines to facilitate the full spectrum
31 of cancer investigations;

- 1 (b) Technical coordination, business development, and
2 support of intellectual property;
- 3 (c) Development of a statewide cancer clinical trials
4 network as contemplated in section 1; and
- 5 (d) Other multidisciplinary research support
6 activities.
- 7 (2) The cooperative shall work in concert with the
8 Center for Universal Research to Eradicate Disease created in
9 section 1 to ensure that the goals of the center are advanced.

10 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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