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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to biomedical research; creating s.  
3 215.5605, F.S.; creating the Center for Universal Research  
4 to Eradicate Disease; providing intent and duties;  
5 creating an advisory council; amending s. 215.5602, F.S.;  
6 expanding the long-term goals and funding of the Florida  
7 Biomedical Research Program to include the cure of  
8 specified diseases; providing an effective date.

9  
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
12 Section 1. Section 215.5605, Florida Statutes, is created  
13 to read:

14 215.5605 Center for Universal Research to Eradicate  
15 Disease.

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

30 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that Florida



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31 strive to become the nation's leader in biomedical research and  
32 commit itself to being the state to find cures for the most  
33 deadly and widespread diseases. It is further the intent of the  
34 Legislature that there be a coordinated effort among the state's  
35 public and private universities and the biomedical industry to  
36 discover such cures. Moreover, it is the intent of the  
37 Legislature to grow the state economy by attracting biomedical  
38 researchers and research companies to this state.

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

41 (a) The purpose of the center is to coordinate, improve,  
42 expand, and monitor all biomedical research programs within the  
43 state, facilitate funding opportunities, and foster improved  
44 technology transfer of research findings into clinical trials  
45 and widespread public use.

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

50 (c) The center shall hold an annual biomedical technology  
51 summit in Florida to which biomedical researchers, biomedical  
52 technology companies, business incubators, pharmaceutical  
53 manufacturers, and others around the nation and world are  
54 invited to share biomedical research findings in order to  
55 expedite the discovery of cures. Summit attendees will be  
56 required to cover the costs of such attendance or obtain  
57 sponsorship for such attendance.

58 (d) The center shall encourage clinical trials in this  
59 state on research that holds promise of curing a disease or  
60 condition. The center shall facilitate partnerships between



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61 researchers, treating physicians, and community hospitals for  
62 the purpose of sharing new techniques and new research findings,  
63 as well as coordinating voluntary donations to ensure an  
64 adequate supply of adult stem cells, cord blood, or other  
65 tissues needed for biomedical research.

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

68 (f) The center shall monitor the supply and demand needs  
69 of researchers relating to stem cell research and other types of  
70 human tissue research. If the center determines that there is a  
71 need for increased donation of human tissue, it shall notify  
72 hospitals licensed pursuant to chapter 395 that have entered  
73 into partnership agreements with research institutes conducting  
74 stem cell research located in the same geographic region as the  
75 researchers demanding the stem cells or other tissues. Such  
76 hospitals shall then implement programs that encourage voluntary  
77 donations of cord blood or other needed tissues.

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

80 (h) The center shall serve as a registry of all known  
81 biomedical grant opportunities and may assist any public or  
82 private biomedical research program in this state in preparing  
83 grant requests.

84 (i) The center shall maintain a website with links to  
85 peer-reviewed biomedical research. The website shall also  
86 contain a list of all known biomedical research being conducted  
87 in Florida and shall facilitate communication among researchers  
88 and other interested parties.

89 (j) The center shall submit an annual report to the  
90 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the



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91 House of Representatives no later than January 15 which contains  
92 recommendations for legislative change necessary to foster a  
93 positive climate for biomedical research in this state.

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

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

98 (a) The council shall consist of the members of the board  
99 of directors of the Florida Research Consortium and at least one  
100 representative from:

101 1. The Emerging Technology Commission.

102 2. Enterprise Florida, Inc.

103 3. BioFlorida.

104 4. The Florida Biomedical Research Advisory Council.

105 5. The Florida Medical Foundation.

106 6. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

107 (b) Members of the council shall serve without  
108 compensation and each organization represented shall cover all  
109 expenses of its representative.

110 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1),  
111 subsection (2), and paragraph (f) of subsection (10) of section  
112 215.5602, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

113 215.5602 Florida Biomedical Research Program.--

114 (1) There is established within the Department of Health  
115 the Florida Biomedical Research Program funded by the proceeds  
116 of the Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund pursuant to s. 215.5601. The  
117 purpose of the Florida Biomedical Research Program is to provide  
118 an annual and perpetual source of funding in order to support  
119 research initiatives that address the health care problems of  
120 Floridians in the areas of tobacco-related cancer,



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121 cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease. The long-  
 122 term goals of the program are to:

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

126 (b) Expand the foundation of biomedical knowledge relating  
 127 to the prevention, diagnosis, ~~and treatment,~~ and cure of  
 128 diseases related to tobacco use, including cancer,  
 129 cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease.

130 (2) Funds appropriated for the Florida Biomedical Research  
 131 Program shall be used exclusively for the award of grants and  
 132 fellowships as established in this section; for research  
 133 relating to the prevention, diagnosis, ~~and treatment,~~ and cure  
 134 of diseases related to tobacco use, including cancer,  
 135 cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease; and for  
 136 expenses incurred in the administration of this section.  
 137 Priority shall be granted to research designed to prevent or  
 138 cure disease.

139 (10) The council shall submit an annual progress report on  
 140 the state of biomedical research in this state to the Governor,  
 141 the Secretary of Health, the President of the Senate, and the  
 142 Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1. The  
 143 report must include:

144 (f) Progress in the prevention, diagnosis, ~~and treatment,~~  
 145 and cure of diseases related to tobacco use, including cancer,  
 146 cardiovascular disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease.

147 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.