

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to arthritis prevention and education;
 3 creating s. 385.210, F.S.; providing a popular name;
 4 providing legislative findings; providing purposes;
 5 directing the Department of Health to establish an
 6 arthritis prevention and education program; requiring the
 7 department to conduct a needs assessment; providing for
 8 establishment of an advisory panel on arthritis; providing
 9 for implementation of a public awareness effort; providing
 10 for funding through contributions; directing the Secretary
 11 of Health to seek federal waivers as necessary to maximize
 12 federal funding; 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. Section 385.210, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 385.210 Arthritis prevention and education.--

19 (1) POPULAR NAME.--This act may be cited as the "Arthritis
 20 Prevention and Education Act."

21 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds the
 22 following:

23 (a) Arthritis encompasses more than 100 diseases and
 24 conditions that affect joints, the surrounding tissues, and
 25 other connective tissues.

26 (b) Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the
 27 United States, limiting daily activities for more than 7 million
 28 citizens.

29 (c) This disease has a significant impact on quality of
30 life, not only for the individual who experiences its painful
31 symptoms and resulting disability, but also for family members
32 and caregivers.

33 (d) There are enormous economic and social costs
34 associated with treating arthritis and its complications. The
35 economic costs are estimated at over \$116 billion (1997)
36 annually in the United States.

37 (e) Currently, the challenge exists to ensure delivery of
38 effective, but often underutilized, interventions that are
39 necessary in the prevention or reduction of arthritis-related
40 pain and disability.

41 (f) Although there exists a large quantity of public
42 information about arthritis, including programs that can
43 dramatically affect early diagnosis and treatment as well as the
44 quality of life of people with arthritis, such information
45 remains inadequately disseminated and insufficient in addressing
46 the needs of specific diverse populations and other underserved
47 groups.

48 (g) The National Arthritis Foundation, the Centers for
49 Disease Control and Prevention, and the Association of State and
50 Territorial Health Officials have led the development of a
51 public health strategy, the National Arthritis Action Plan, to
52 respond to this challenge.

53 (h) Educating the public and the health care community
54 throughout the state about this devastating disease is of
55 paramount importance and is in every respect in the public
56 interest and to the benefit of all residents of the state.

- 57 (3) PURPOSES.--The purposes of this section are to:
 58 (a) Create and foster a statewide program that promotes
 59 public awareness and increases knowledge concerning the causes
 60 of arthritis, the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate
 61 management, effective prevention strategies, and pain prevention
 62 and management.
 63 (b) Develop knowledge and enhance understanding of
 64 arthritis by disseminating educational materials and information
 65 on research results, services provided, and strategies for
 66 prevention and education to patients, health professionals, and
 67 the public.
 68 (c) Establish a solid scientific base of knowledge
 69 concerning the prevention of arthritis and related disabilities
 70 through surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention research.
 71 (d) Use educational and training resources and services
 72 developed by organizations with appropriate expertise and
 73 knowledge of arthritis and use available technical assistance.
 74 (e) Evaluate the need for improving the quality and
 75 accessibility of existing community-based arthritis services.
 76 (f) Heighten awareness among state and local health and
 77 human services officials, health professionals and providers,
 78 and policymakers about the prevention, detection, and treatment
 79 of arthritis.
 80 (g) Implement and coordinate state and local programs and
 81 services to reduce the public health burden of arthritis.
 82 (h) Provide lasting improvements in the delivery of health
 83 care for individuals with arthritis and their families, thereby
 84 improving their quality of life while also containing health

85 care costs.

86 (4) ARTHRITIS PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.--

87 (a) Program establishment.--To the extent that funds are
 88 specifically made available for this purpose, the Department of
 89 Health shall establish, promote, and maintain an arthritis
 90 prevention and education program to raise public awareness,
 91 educate consumers, and educate and train health professionals,
 92 teachers, and human services providers, and for other purposes
 93 as provided in this section.

94 (b) Needs assessment.--The department shall conduct a
 95 needs assessment to identify:

96 1. Epidemiological and other research on arthritis being
 97 conducted within the state.

98 2. Available technical assistance and educational
 99 materials and programs on arthritis nationwide and within the
 100 state.

101 3. The level of public and professional awareness of
 102 arthritis.

103 4. The needs of people with arthritis, their families, and
 104 caregivers.

105 5. The educational and support service needs of health
 106 care providers, including physicians, nurses, managed care
 107 organizations, and other health care providers, relating to
 108 arthritis.

109 6. The services available to persons with arthritis.

110 7. The existence of arthritis treatment, self-management,
 111 physical activity, and other education programs.

112 8. The existence of rehabilitation services for people

113 with arthritis.

114 (c) Advisory panel on arthritis.--The department shall
 115 establish and coordinate an advisory panel on arthritis to
 116 provide nongovernmental input regarding the arthritis prevention
 117 and education program. Membership shall include, but is not
 118 limited to, persons with arthritis, public health educators,
 119 medical experts on arthritis, providers of arthritis health
 120 care, persons knowledgeable in health promotion and education,
 121 and representatives of national arthritis organizations and
 122 their local chapters.

123 (d) Public awareness.--The department shall use, but is
 124 not limited to, strategies consistent with the National
 125 Arthritis Action Plan and existing state planning efforts to
 126 raise public awareness and knowledge about the causes and nature
 127 of arthritis, personal risk factors, the value of prevention and
 128 early detection, ways to minimize preventable pain, and options
 129 for diagnosing and treating the disease.

130 (5) FUNDING.--

131 (a) The Secretary of Health may accept grants, services,
 132 and property from the Federal Government, foundations,
 133 organizations, medical schools, and other entities as may be
 134 available for the purposes of fulfilling the obligations of this
 135 program.

136 (b) The secretary shall seek any federal waiver or waivers
 137 that may be necessary to maximize funds from the Federal
 138 Government to implement this program.

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