

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Health & Families Council recommends the following:

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3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to arthritis prevention and education;
7 creating s. 385.210, F.S.; providing a popular name;
8 providing legislative findings; providing purposes;
9 directing the Department of Health to establish an
10 arthritis prevention and education program; requiring the
11 department to conduct a needs assessment; providing for
12 establishment of a statewide partnership on arthritis;
13 providing for implementation of a public awareness effort;
14 providing for funding through contributions; directing the
15 Secretary of Health to seek federal waivers as necessary
16 to maximize federal funding; providing an effective date.

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

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20 Section 1. Section 385.210, Florida Statutes, is created
21 to read:

22 385.210 Arthritis prevention and education.--

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

25 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds the
26 following:

27 (a) Arthritis encompasses more than 100 diseases and
28 conditions that affect joints, the surrounding tissues, and
29 other connective tissues.

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

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

37 (d) There are enormous economic and social costs
38 associated with treating arthritis and its complications. The
39 economic costs are estimated at over \$116 billion (1997)
40 annually in the United States.

41 (e) Currently, the challenge exists to ensure delivery of
42 effective, but often underutilized, interventions that are
43 necessary in the prevention or reduction of arthritis-related
44 pain and disability.

45 (f) Although there exists a large quantity of public
46 information about arthritis, including programs that can
47 dramatically affect early diagnosis and treatment as well as the
48 quality of life of people with arthritis, such information
49 remains inadequately disseminated and insufficient in addressing

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50 the needs of specific diverse populations and other underserved
51 groups.

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

57 (h) Educating the public and the health care community
58 throughout the state about this devastating disease is of
59 paramount importance and is in every respect in the public
60 interest and to the benefit of all residents of the state.

61 (3) PURPOSES.--The purposes of this section are to:

62 (a) Create and foster a statewide program that promotes
63 public awareness and increases knowledge concerning the causes
64 of arthritis, the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate
65 management, effective prevention strategies, and pain prevention
66 and management.

67 (b) Develop knowledge and enhance understanding of
68 arthritis by disseminating educational materials and information
69 on research results, services provided, and strategies for
70 prevention and education to patients, health professionals, and
71 the public.

72 (c) Establish a solid scientific base of knowledge
73 concerning the prevention of arthritis and related disabilities
74 through surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention research.

75 (d) Use educational and training resources and services
76 developed by organizations with appropriate expertise and
77 knowledge of arthritis and use available technical assistance.

78 (e) Evaluate the need for improving the quality and
79 accessibility of existing community-based arthritis services.

80 (f) Heighten awareness among state and local health and
81 human services officials, health professionals and providers,
82 and policymakers about the prevention, detection, and treatment
83 of arthritis.

84 (g) Implement and coordinate state and local programs and
85 services to reduce the public health burden of arthritis.

86 (h) Provide lasting improvements in the delivery of health
87 care for individuals with arthritis and their families, thereby
88 improving their quality of life while also containing health
89 care costs.

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

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

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

100 1. Epidemiological and other research on arthritis being
101 conducted within the state.

102 2. Available technical assistance and educational
103 materials and programs on arthritis nationwide and within the
104 state.

105 3. The level of public and professional awareness of
106 arthritis.

107 4. The needs of people with arthritis, their families, and
108 caregivers.

109 5. The educational and support service needs of health
110 care providers, including physicians, nurses, managed care
111 organizations, and other health care providers, relating to
112 arthritis.

113 6. The services available to persons with arthritis.

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

116 8. The existence of rehabilitation services for people
117 with arthritis.

118 (c) Statewide partnership on arthritis.--The department
119 shall establish and coordinate a statewide partnership on
120 arthritis to collaborate with the department and address
121 arthritis issues within the state. Membership shall include, but
122 is not limited to, persons with arthritis, public health
123 educators, medical experts on arthritis, providers of arthritis
124 health care, persons knowledgeable in health promotion and
125 education, and representatives of national arthritis
126 organizations and their local chapters.

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

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133 evidence-based self-management interventions, and options for
134 diagnosing and treating the disease.

135 (5) FUNDING.--

136 (a) The Secretary of Health may accept grants, services,
137 and property from the Federal Government, foundations,
138 organizations, medical schools, and other entities as may be
139 available for the purposes of fulfilling the obligations of this
140 program.

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

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