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587-07429-08

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Health Policy

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to rheumatoid arthritis; amending s.
3 385.210, F.S.; revising legislative findings; revising
4 purposes; directing the Department of Health to establish
5 an arthritis prevention and education program in
6 conjunction with the Scripps Research Institute; revising
7 requirements for a statewide partnership on arthritis;
8 requiring that the State Surgeon General coordinate with
9 the Executive Office of the Governor in order to obtain
10 funding; providing an effective date.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Section 385.210, Florida Statutes, is amended to
15 read:

16 385.210 Arthritis prevention and education.--

17 (1) SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Arthritis
18 Prevention and Education Act."

19 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds the
20 following:

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

24 (b) Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the
25 United States, limiting daily activities for more than 19 7
26 million citizens.

27 (c) This disease has a significant impact on quality of
28 life, not only for the individual who experiences its painful



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29 | symptoms and resulting disability, but also for family members
30 | and caregivers.

31 | (d) There are enormous economic and social costs associated
32 | with treating arthritis and its complications; the economic costs
33 | are estimated at over \$123 billion (2003) ~~\$116 billion (1997)~~
34 | annually in the United States.

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

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

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

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

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

56 | (a) Create and foster a statewide program that promotes
57 | public awareness and increases knowledge concerning the causes of
58 | arthritis, the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate



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59 management, effective prevention strategies, and pain prevention
60 and management.

61 (b) Develop knowledge and enhance understanding of
62 arthritis by disseminating educational materials and information
63 on research results, services provided, and strategies for
64 prevention and education to patients, health professionals, and
65 the public.

66 (c) Establish a solid scientific base of knowledge
67 concerning the prevention of arthritis and related disabilities
68 through surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention research.
69 These efforts shall be conducted in conjunction with the research
70 efforts of the Scripps Research Institute through the funding
71 provided pursuant to s. 288.955.

72 (d) Use educational and training resources and services
73 developed by organizations with appropriate expertise and
74 knowledge of arthritis and to use available technical assistance.

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

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

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

83 (h) Provide lasting improvements in the delivery of health
84 care for individuals with arthritis and their families, thus
85 improving their quality of life while also containing health care
86 costs.

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



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

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

98 1. Epidemiological and other research on arthritis being
99 conducted within the state, which shall be prioritized on
100 determining the prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis, especially
101 within women in Florida.

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

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

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

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

112 6. The services available to persons with arthritis.

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

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



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

126 (d) Public awareness.--The department shall use, but is not
127 limited to, strategies consistent with the National Arthritis
128 Action Plan and existing state planning efforts to raise public
129 awareness and knowledge on the causes and nature of arthritis,
130 personal risk factors, the value of prevention and early
131 detection, ways to minimize preventable pain through evidence-
132 based self-management interventions, and options for diagnosing
133 and treating the disease.

134 (5) FUNDING.--

135 (a) The State Surgeon General may accept grants, services,
136 and property from the Federal Government, foundations,
137 organizations, medical schools, and other entities as may be
138 available for the purposes of fulfilling the obligations of this
139 program, and shall coordinate activities through the Executive
140 Office of the Governor to obtain funding in conjunction with
141 appropriations to the Scripps Research Institute pursuant to s.
142 288.955.

143 (b) The State Surgeon General shall seek any federal waiver
144 or waivers that may be necessary to maximize funds from the
145 Federal Government to implement this program.

146 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.