



629632

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/26/2012	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

---

---

The Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability  
(Flores) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 121 - 256  
and insert:

(g) Developing guidelines ~~administrative procedures~~  
relating to solicitation, review, and award of research grants  
and fellowships, to ensure an impartial, high-quality peer  
review system.

~~(h) Developing and supervising research peer review panels.~~

(h) ~~(i)~~ Reviewing reports of peer review panels and making  
recommendations for research grants and fellowships.

(i) ~~(j)~~ Developing and providing oversight regarding



629632

13 mechanisms for the dissemination of research results.

14 (5)

15 (b) Grants and fellowships shall be awarded by the State  
16 Surgeon General, after consultation with the council, on the  
17 basis of scientific merit, as determined by the competitively an  
18 open, peer-reviewed competitive peer review process to ensure  
19 ~~that ensures~~ objectivity, consistency, and high quality. The  
20 following types of applications may shall be considered for  
21 funding:

22 1. Investigator-initiated research grants.

23 2. Institutional research grants.

24 3. Predoctoral and postdoctoral research fellowships.

25 (6) To ensure that all proposals for research funding are  
26 appropriate and are evaluated fairly on the basis of scientific  
27 merit, the department State Surgeon General, in consultation  
28 ~~with the council,~~ shall appoint a peer review panels panel of  
29 independent, scientifically qualified individuals to review the  
30 scientific merit content of each proposal and establish its  
31 scientific priority score. The priority scores shall be  
32 forwarded to the council and must be considered in determining  
33 which proposals shall be recommended for funding.

34 (7) The council and the peer review panel shall establish  
35 and follow rigorous guidelines for ethical conduct and adhere to  
36 a strict policy with regard to conflict of interest. A member of  
37 the council or panel may not participate in any discussion or  
38 decision of the council or panel with respect to a research  
39 proposal by any firm, entity, or agency with which the member is  
40 associated as a member of the governing body or as an employee,  
41 or with which the member has entered into a contractual



629632

42 ~~arrangement. Meetings of the council and the peer review panels~~  
43 ~~shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 119, s. 286.011,~~  
44 ~~and s. 24, Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

45 (9) The grant programs under the purview of the council are  
46 exempt from rulemaking authority under chapter 120 department,  
47 ~~after consultation with the council, may adopt rules as~~  
48 ~~necessary to implement this section.~~

49 (10) The council shall submit an annual progress report for  
50 each fiscal year on programs under its purview ~~on the state of~~  
51 ~~biomedical research in this state~~ to the Florida Center for  
52 Universal Research to Eradicate Disease and to the Governor, the  
53 State Surgeon General, the President of the Senate, and the  
54 Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 15 ~~February~~  
55 ~~1~~. The report must include:

56 (a) A list of research projects supported by grants or  
57 fellowships awarded under the program.

58 (b) A list of recipients of program grants or fellowships.

59 (c) A list of publications in peer reviewed journals  
60 involving research supported by grants or fellowships awarded  
61 under the program.

62 (d) The state ranking and total amount of biomedical  
63 research funding currently flowing into the state from the  
64 National Institutes of Health.

65 (e) New grants for biomedical research which were funded  
66 based on research supported by grants or fellowships awarded  
67 under the program.

68 (f) Progress towards programmatic goals, particularly in  
69 the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of diseases  
70 related to tobacco use, including cancer, cardiovascular



629632

71 disease, stroke, and pulmonary disease.

72 (g) Recommendations that further the missions of the  
73 programs.

74 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
75 381.855, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

76 381.855 Florida Center for Universal Research to Eradicate  
77 Disease.—

78 (5) There is established within the center an advisory  
79 council that shall meet at least annually.

80 (a) The council shall consist of one representative from a  
81 Florida not-for-profit institution engaged in basic and clinical  
82 biomedical research and education which receives more than \$10  
83 million in annual grant funding from the National Institutes of  
84 Health, to be appointed by the State Surgeon General from a  
85 different institution each term, and one representative from and  
86 appointed by each of the following entities:

- 87 1. Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- 88 2. BioFlorida.
- 89 3. The Biomedical Research Advisory Council.
- 90 4. The Florida Medical Foundation.
- 91 5. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.
- 92 6. The American Cancer Society, Florida Division, Inc.
- 93 7. The American Heart Association, Greater Southeast  
94 Affiliate.
- 95 8. The American Lung Association of Florida.
- 96 9. The American Diabetes Association, South Coastal Region.
- 97 10. The Alzheimer's Association.
- 98 11. The Epilepsy Foundation.
- 99 12. The National Parkinson Foundation.



629632

100 13. The Florida Public Health Institute, Inc.

101 14. The Florida Research Consortium.

102 Section 4. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section  
103 381.922, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

104 381.922 William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley  
105 Cancer Research Program.—

106 (3) (a) Applications for funding for cancer research may be  
107 submitted by any university or established research institute in  
108 the state. All qualified investigators in the state, regardless  
109 of institutional affiliation, shall have equal access and  
110 opportunity to compete for the research funding. Collaborative  
111 proposals, including those that advance the program's goals  
112 enumerated in subsection (2), may be given preference. Grants  
113 shall be awarded by the department ~~State Surgeon General~~, after  
114 consultation with the Biomedical Research Advisory Council, on  
115 the basis of scientific merit, as determined by the  
116 competitively ~~an~~ open, peer-reviewed ~~competitive peer review~~  
117 process to ensure ~~that ensures~~ objectivity, consistency, and  
118 high quality. The following types of applications may ~~shall~~ be  
119 considered for funding:

120 1. Investigator-initiated research grants.

121 2. Institutional research grants.

122 3. Collaborative research grants, including those that  
123 advance the finding of cures through basic or applied research.

124 (b) In order to ensure that all proposals for research  
125 funding are appropriate and are evaluated fairly on the basis of  
126 scientific merit, the department ~~State Surgeon General~~, ~~in~~  
127 ~~consultation with the council~~, shall appoint a peer review  
128 panels ~~panel~~ of independent, scientifically qualified



629632

129 individuals to review the scientific merit ~~content~~ of each  
130 proposal and establish its priority score. The priority scores  
131 shall be forwarded to the council and must be considered in  
132 determining which proposals shall be recommended for funding.

133 (c) The council and the peer review panel shall establish  
134 and follow rigorous guidelines for ethical conduct and adhere to  
135 a strict policy with regard to conflicts of interest. A member  
136 of the council or panel may not participate in any discussion or  
137 decision of the council or panel with respect to a research  
138 proposal by any firm, entity, or agency with which the member is  
139 associated as a member of the governing body or as an employee  
140 or with which the member has entered into a contractual  
141 arrangement. ~~Meetings of the council and the peer review panels~~  
142 ~~are subject to chapter 119, s. 286.011, and s. 24, Art. I of the~~  
143 ~~State Constitution.~~

144  
145 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

146 And the title is amended as follows:

147 Delete lines 21 - 45

148 and insert:

149 Biomedical Research Program; deleting a provision that  
150 subjects meetings of the council and peer review  
151 panels to public records and public meetings  
152 requirements; providing that grant programs under the  
153 purview of the advisory council are exempt from  
154 rulemaking authority; requiring that the council  
155 submit an annual progress report for each fiscal year  
156 on programs under its purview to certain entities by a  
157 specified date; revising the required content of the



629632

158 report; amending s. 381.855, F.S.; specifying the name  
159 of an affiliate chapter of the American Heart  
160 Association as it relates to the membership of the  
161 advisory council within the Florida Center for  
162 Universal Research to Eradicate Disease; amending s.  
163 381.922, F.S.; requiring that the department, rather  
164 than the State Surgeon General, in consultation with  
165 the council, appoint a peer review panel of  
166 independent, scientifically qualified individuals  
167 award grants under the William G. "Bill" Bankhead,  
168 Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program;  
169 providing that certain types of applications may be  
170 considered for funding in the William G. "Bill"  
171 Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research  
172 Program; requiring that the department, rather than  
173 the State Surgeon General, without the consultation of  
174 the council, appoint a peer review panel of  
175 independent, scientifically qualified individuals to  
176 review the scientific merit of each proposal for  
177 research funding and establish its priority score;  
178 deleting a provision that subjects meetings of the  
179 council and peer review panels to public records and  
180 public meetings requirements; deleting the