

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

BILL: SB 2510

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee

SUBJECT: Alzheimer's Disease Research

DATE: February 3, 2016

REVISED: _____

ANALYST

Loe

STAFF DIRECTOR

Kynoch

REFERENCE

ACTION

AP Submitted as Committee Bill

I. Summary:

SB 2510 conforms statutes to the funding decisions included to the Senate General Appropriations Bill, SB 2500, for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

The bill amends s. 381.82, F.S., allowing the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program to carry forward appropriations from the General Revenue Fund up to five years after an appropriation's effective date if the appropriation is obligated by June 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated.

The Senate General Appropriations Act, SB 2500, provides a \$3,000,000 recurring general revenue appropriation for this purpose.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2016.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Legislature created the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program in 2014 (program). The program is housed in the Department of Health (DOH) and is administered by the 11-member Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board (board). The program's purpose is to fund research leading to prevention of, or a cure for, Alzheimer's disease.

The board consists of 11 members appointed by the State Surgeon General and must include two gerontologists, two geriatric psychiatrists, two geriatricians, two neuroscientists, and three neurologists, who serve four-year staggered terms. The board must elect a chairperson from the membership of the board who serves a term of two years, establish operating procedures, follow guidelines for ethical conduct, and adhere to a policy regarding to conflicts of interest. The DOH staff assists the board in carrying out its duties. Board members do not receive compensation, or reimbursement for per diem or travel. Board activities are exempt from public records requirements.

The board must submit recommendations for funding of research proposals to the State Surgeon General by December 15 of each year. Upon receipt of the board's recommendation, the State Surgeon General is authorized to award grants on the basis of scientific merit. Applications for research funding may be submitted by any university or established research institute in the state, and all qualified investigators in the state have equal access and opportunity to compete for research funding. The implementation of the program is subject to legislative appropriation. The types of applications which may be considered for funding, include:

- Investigatory-initiated research grants;
- Institutional research grants;
- Pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research fellowships; and
- Collaborative research grants, including those that advance the finding of cures through basic or applied research.

Annually, the board must submit a fiscal-year progress report on the research program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the State Surgeon General by February 15. The report must include:

- A list of research projects supported by grants or fellowships awarded under the program;
- A list of recipients of program grants or fellowships;
- A list of publications in peer-reviewed journals involving research supported by grants or fellowships awarded under the program;
- The state ranking and total amount of Alzheimer's disease research funding currently flowing into the state from the National Institute of Health;
- New grants for Alzheimer's disease research which were funded based on research supported by grants or fellowships awarded under the program;
- Progress toward programmatic goals, particularly in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of Alzheimer's disease; and
- Recommendations to further the mission of the program.

The recommendations contained in the Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board Annual Report for 2014-2015, to further the mission of the program identified difficulties researchers have with completing their research within the one year time frame that a general revenue appropriation allows. The board recommended future appropriations made to the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program be funded from the Biomedical Research Trust Fund so as to permit research projects to span multiple years.¹

In 2014, the Legislature appropriated \$3,000,000 of general revenue funds to the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program. The program awarded eleven grants ranging from \$112,500 to \$500,000, fully encumbering the \$3,000,000 appropriation for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.² By default, general revenue appropriations that remain unspent at the end of a fiscal year revert to the state.³ However, the Legislature may supersede this provision by passing a law that specifically authorizes the appropriation to be carried forward.⁴ In 2015, the Legislature

¹ See Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board, Annual Report 2014-15 p. 6.

² See Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board, Annual Report 2014-15 p.4.

³ s. 216.301, F.S.

⁴ s.216.351, F.S.

appropriated \$3,000,000 in general revenue funds to the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program and carried forward the unexpended balance of funds from Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in s. 50 of ch. 2015-232, Laws of Florida.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill implements the board's recommendation to allow the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program to carry forward unspent general revenue appropriations up to five years after an appropriation's effective date if obligated by June 30 of the year the funds were appropriated thus allowing research projects to span multiple years. In the past, the Department of Health has indicated that such a change would allow them to offer longer grant periods, thus enabling researchers to conduct clinical trials that are more likely to result in a marketable product.⁵ Five years is consistent with grant timeframes seen in other research programs such as the National Institutes of Health.⁶

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Under SB 2510, researchers will be able to perform multiyear projects and will benefit from having access to allocated grant funds over the course of a five year period.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill provides a \$3 million recurring general revenue appropriation for the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program.

⁵ See generally Health and Human Services Committee Bill Analysis of 2012, House Bill 655 p. 4 (3/26/12).

⁶ National Institutes of Health, http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm (last visited 3/5/2015).

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 381.82 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.