

Amendment No.1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u>      </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Health & Human Services  
 2 Committee

3 Representative Anderson offered the following:

4

5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:  
 7 Section 1. Section 381.991, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 8 read:

9 381.991 Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare Disease Grant  
 10 Program.—

11 (1)(a) There is created within the Department of Health  
 12 the Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare Disease Grant Program.

13 The purpose of the program is to advance the progress of  
 14 research and cures for pediatric rare diseases by awarding  
 15 grants through a competitive, peer-reviewed process.

16 (b) Subject to an annual appropriation by the Legislature,

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17 the program shall award grants for scientific and clinical  
18 research to further the search for new diagnostics, treatments,  
19 and cures for pediatric rare diseases.

20 (2)(a) Applications for grants for pediatric rare disease  
21 research may be submitted by any university or established  
22 research institute in the state. All qualified investigators in  
23 the state, regardless of institutional affiliation, shall have  
24 equal access and opportunity to compete for the research  
25 funding. Preference may be given to grant proposals that foster  
26 collaboration among institutions, researchers, and community  
27 practitioners, as such proposals support the advancement of  
28 treatments and cures of pediatric rare diseases through basic or  
29 applied research. Grants shall be awarded by the department,  
30 after consultation with the Rare Disease Advisory Council,  
31 pursuant to s. 381.99, on the basis of scientific merit, as  
32 determined by the competitive, peer-reviewed process to ensure  
33 objectivity, consistency, and high quality. The following types  
34 of applications may be considered for funding:

35 1. Investigator-initiated research grants.

36 2. Institutional research grants.

37 3. Collaborative research grants, including those that  
38 advance the finding of treatment and cures through basic or  
39 applied research.

40 (b) To ensure appropriate and fair evaluation of grant  
41 applications based on scientific merit, the department shall

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42 appoint peer review panels of independent, scientifically  
43 qualified individuals to review the scientific merit of each  
44 proposal and establish its priority score. The priority scores  
45 shall be forwarded to the council and must be considered in  
46 determining which proposals shall be recommended for funding.

47 (c) The council and the peer review panels shall establish  
48 and follow rigorous guidelines for ethical conduct and adhere to  
49 a strict policy with regard to conflicts of interest. A member  
50 of the council or panel may not participate in any discussion or  
51 decision of the council or panel with respect to a research  
52 proposal by any firm, entity, or agency that the member is  
53 associated with as a member of the governing body or as an  
54 employee or with which the member has entered into a contractual  
55 arrangement.

56 (d) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,  
57 the balance of any appropriation from the General Revenue Fund  
58 for the Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare Disease Grant  
59 Program that is not disbursed but that is obligated pursuant to  
60 contract or committed to be expended by June 30 of the fiscal  
61 year in which the funds are appropriated may be carried forward  
62 for up to 5 years after the effective date of the original  
63 appropriation.

64 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024

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**T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

67  
68           Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:  
69 An act relating to the Department of Health; creating s.  
70 381.991, F.S.; creating the Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare  
71 Disease Grant Program within the department for a specified  
72 purpose; subject to an appropriation by the Legislature,  
73 requiring the program to award grants for certain scientific and  
74 clinical research; specifying entities eligible to apply for the  
75 grants; specifying the types of applications that may be  
76 considered for grant funding; providing for a competitive, peer-  
77 reviewed application and selection process; providing that the  
78 remaining balance of appropriations for the program as of a  
79 specified date may be carried forward for a specified timeframe  
80 under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.