

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; and the Appropriations
Committee on Health and Human Services

594-03660-24

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to cancer funding; amending s.
3 381.915, F.S.; revising the purpose of the Casey
4 DeSantis Cancer Research Program; revising duties of
5 the Department of Health under the program; creating
6 the Cancer Connect Collaborative, a council, within
7 the department for a specified purpose; authorizing
8 the collaborative to make certain recommendations on
9 state policy relating to cancer research or treatment;
10 providing for membership and meetings of the
11 collaborative; requiring the collaborative to develop
12 a long-range comprehensive plan for the program;
13 requiring the collaborative to solicit input from
14 certain stakeholders in the development of the plan;
15 requiring the collaborative to submit the plan to the
16 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
17 specifying required components of the plan; requiring
18 the department to provide administrative support and
19 staff to the collaborative; requiring the
20 collaborative to advise the department on the awarding
21 of grants issued through the Cancer Innovation Fund;
22 requiring the collaborative to review grant
23 applications and make recommendations to the
24 department for awarding grants upon the appropriation
25 of funds to the fund; requiring the department to make
26 the final grant allocation award; requiring the
27 collaborative to prioritize certain applications for
28 grant funding; revising the frequency with which the
29 department, in conjunction with participating cancer

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30 centers, must submit a specified report to the Cancer
31 Control and Research Advisory Council and the
32 collaborative; requiring the department to submit the
33 report, and any equivalent independent reports, to the
34 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date each
35 year; revising requirements of such reports; beginning
36 on a specified date, requiring that each allocation
37 agreement issued by the department relating to certain
38 cancer center payments include specified elements;
39 providing an effective date.
40

41 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
42

43 Section 1. Present subsections (8), (9), and (10) of
44 section 381.915, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
45 subsections (10), (12), and (13), new subsections (8) and (9)
46 and subsection (11) are added to that section, and subsection
47 (2) of that section is amended, to read:

48 381.915 Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.—

49 (2) The Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program is
50 established to enhance the quality and competitiveness of cancer
51 care in this state, further a statewide biomedical research
52 strategy directly responsive to the health needs of Florida's
53 citizens, ~~and~~ capitalize on the potential educational
54 opportunities available to its students, and promote the
55 provision of high-quality, innovative health care for persons
56 undergoing cancer treatment in this state. The department shall:

57 (a) Make payments to cancer centers recognized by the
58 National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of

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59 Health as NCI-designated cancer centers or NCI-designated
60 comprehensive cancer centers, and cancer centers working toward
61 achieving NCI designation. The department shall distribute funds
62 to participating cancer centers on a quarterly basis during each
63 fiscal year for which an appropriation is made.

64 (b) Make cancer innovation grant funding available through
65 the Cancer Innovation Fund under subsection (9) to health care
66 providers and facilities that demonstrate excellence in patient-
67 centered cancer treatment or research.

68 (8) The Cancer Connect Collaborative, a council as defined
69 in s. 20.03, is created within the department to advise the
70 department and the Legislature on developing a holistic approach
71 to the state's efforts to fund cancer research, cancer
72 facilities, and treatments for cancer patients. The
73 collaborative may make recommendations on proposed legislation,
74 proposed rules, best practices, data collection and reporting,
75 issuance of grant funds, and other proposals for state policy
76 relating to cancer research or treatment.

77 (a) The Surgeon General shall serve as an ex officio,
78 nonvoting member and shall serve as the chair.

79 (b) The collaborative shall be composed of the following
80 voting members, to be appointed by September 1, 2024:

81 1. Two members appointed by the Governor, one member
82 appointed by the President of the Senate, and one member
83 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, based
84 on the criteria of this subparagraph. The appointing officers
85 shall make their appointments prioritizing members who have the
86 following experience or expertise:

87 a. The practice of a health care profession specializing in

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88 oncology clinical care or research;

89 b. The development of preventive and therapeutic treatments
90 to control cancer;

91 c. The development of innovative research into the causes
92 of cancer, the development of effective treatments for persons
93 with cancer, or cures for cancer; or

94 d. Management-level experience with a cancer center
95 licensed under chapter 395.

96 2. One member who is a resident of this state who can
97 represent the interests of cancer patients in this state,
98 appointed by the Governor.

99 (c) The terms of appointees under paragraph (b) shall be
100 for 2 years unless otherwise specified. However, to achieve
101 staggered terms, the initial appointees under that paragraph
102 shall serve 3 years for their first term. These appointees may
103 be reappointed for no more than four consecutive terms.

104 (d) Any vacancy occurring on the collaborative must be
105 filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Any
106 member who is appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of
107 death, resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve
108 only for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor.

109 (e) Members whose terms have expired may continue to serve
110 until replaced or reappointed, but for no more than 6 months
111 after the expiration of their terms.

112 (f) Members shall serve without compensation but are
113 entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses
114 pursuant to s. 112.061.

115 (g) The collaborative shall meet as necessary, but at least
116 quarterly, at the call of the chair. A majority of the members

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117 of the collaborative constitutes a quorum, and a meeting may not
118 be held with less than a quorum present. In order to establish a
119 quorum, the collaborative may conduct its meetings through
120 teleconference or other electronic means. The affirmative vote
121 of a majority of the members of the collaborative present is
122 necessary for any official action by the collaborative.

123 (h) The collaborative shall develop a long-range
124 comprehensive plan for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research
125 Program. In the development of the plan, the collaborative must
126 solicit input from cancer centers, research institutions,
127 biomedical education institutions, hospitals, and medical
128 providers. The collaborative shall submit the plan to the
129 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
130 House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2024. The
131 plan must include, but need not be limited to, all of the
132 following components:

133 1. Expansion of grant fund opportunities to include a
134 broader pool of Florida-based cancer centers, research
135 institutions, biomedical education institutions, hospitals, and
136 medical providers to receive funding through the Cancer
137 Innovation Fund.

138 2. An evaluation to determine metrics that focus on patient
139 outcomes, quality of care, and efficacy of treatment.

140 3. A compilation of best practices relating to cancer
141 research or treatment.

142 (i) The department shall provide reasonable and necessary
143 support staff and materials to assist the collaborative in the
144 performance of its duties.

145 (9) The collaborative shall advise the department on the

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146 awarding of grants issued through the Cancer Innovation Fund.
147 During any fiscal year for which funds are appropriated to the
148 fund, the collaborative shall review all submitted grant
149 applications and make recommendations to the department for
150 awarding grants to support innovative cancer research and
151 treatment models, including emerging research and treatment
152 trends and promising treatments that may serve as catalysts for
153 further research and treatments. The department shall make the
154 final grant allocation awards. The collaborative shall give
155 priority to applications seeking to expand the reach of
156 innovative cancer treatment models into underserved areas of
157 this state.

158 (10) Beginning July 1, 2025 ~~2017~~, and each year ~~every 3~~
159 ~~years~~ thereafter, the department, in conjunction with
160 participating cancer centers, shall submit a report to the
161 Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council and the
162 collaborative on specific metrics relating to cancer mortality
163 and external funding for cancer-related research in this ~~the~~
164 state. If a cancer center does not endorse this report or
165 produce an equivalent independent report, the cancer center is
166 ineligible to receive ~~shall be suspended from the~~ program
167 funding for 1 year. The department must submit this annual
168 report, and any equivalent independent reports, to the Governor,
169 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
170 Representatives no later than September 15 of each year the
171 report or reports are submitted by the department. The report
172 must include:

173 (a) An analysis of trending age-adjusted cancer mortality
174 rates in the state, which must include, at a minimum, overall

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175 age-adjusted mortality rates for cancer statewide and age-
176 adjusted mortality rates by age group, geographic region, and
177 type of cancer, which must include, at a minimum:

- 178 1. Lung cancer.
- 179 2. Pancreatic cancer.
- 180 3. Sarcoma.
- 181 4. Melanoma.
- 182 5. Leukemia and myelodysplastic syndromes.
- 183 6. Brain cancer.
- 184 7. Breast cancer.

185 (b) Identification of trends in overall federal funding,
186 broken down by institutional source, for cancer-related research
187 in the state.

188 (c) A list and narrative description of ~~collaborative~~
189 ~~grants and~~ interinstitutional collaboration among participating
190 cancer centers, which may include grants received by
191 participating cancer centers in collaboration, a comparison of
192 such ~~collaborative~~ grants in proportion to the grant totals for
193 each cancer center, a catalog of retreats and progress seed
194 grants using state funds, and targets for collaboration in the
195 future and reports on progress regarding such targets where
196 appropriate.

197 (11) Beginning July 1, 2024, each allocation agreement
198 issued by the department relating to cancer center payments
199 under subsection (2) must include all of the following:

200 (a) A line-item budget narrative documenting the annual
201 allocation of funds to a cancer center.

202 (b) A cap on the annual award of 15 percent for
203 administrative expenses.

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204 (c) A requirement for the cancer center to submit quarterly
205 reports of all expenditures made by the cancer center with funds
206 received through the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.

207 (d) A provision to allow the department and other state
208 auditing bodies to audit all financial records, supporting
209 documents, statistical records, and any other documents
210 pertinent to the allocation agreement.

211 (e) A provision requiring the annual reporting of outcome
212 data and protocols used in achieving those outcomes.

213 ~~(12)(9)~~ This section is subject to annual appropriation by
214 the Legislature.

215 ~~(13)(10)~~ The department may adopt rules to administer this
216 section.

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