

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Parkinson's disease research
3 funding; creating s. 381.992, F.S.; providing a short
4 title; establishing the Parkinson's Disease Research
5 Program; providing for purpose of the fund; requiring
6 the Department of Health to create a specified
7 registry; providing for coverage of specified testing;
8 providing for funding and allocations; requiring the
9 Department of Health to establish the Parkinson's
10 Disease Research Advisory Board; providing
11 requirements for board membership and duties;
12 providing for future legislative review and repeal of
13 the advisory board; requiring grant recipients to
14 annually submit a specified report to the department;
15 providing an effective date.

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17 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological
18 disorder affecting approximately one million Americans, with an
19 estimated 90,000 new diagnoses each year, and

20 WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for Parkinson's disease
21 and innovative research is essential to advance therapies,
22 improve patient outcomes, and alleviate the burden of this
23 disease, NOW, THEREFORE,

24
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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27 **Section 1. Section 381.992, Florida Statutes, is created**
28 **to read:**

29 381.992 Parkinson's disease research.—

30 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
31 "Parkinson's Disease Research Fund Act."

32 (2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT AND REGISTRY.—

33 (a) The Parkinson's Disease Research Program is
34 established within the Department of Health.

35 (b) The program shall support innovative research and
36 provide caregiver assistance as described in this section.

37 (c) The Department of Health shall create a Parkinson's
38 Disease Research Program Registry of individuals served by the
39 program.

40 (3) AVAILABILITY OF COVERAGE.—A health plan as defined in
41 s. 408.7057(1) shall cover the costs of Parkinson's disease
42 biomarker testing for individuals under this program.

43 (4) (a) FUNDING AND ALLOCATION.—The Legislature shall
44 appropriate funds from the General Revenue Fund to the program
45 for fiscal year 2025-2026.

46 (b) The funds shall be allocated through grants as
47 follows:

48 1. Twenty million dollars shall be awarded through
49 competitive grants to state universities, research institutions,
50 and medical centers actively engaged in Parkinson's disease

51 research with priority given to innovative therapies and
52 projects aimed at finding a cure.

53 2. Five million dollars shall be used to establish and
54 expand programs that support caregivers of individuals living
55 with Parkinson's disease, including respite care, training, and
56 mental health resources.

57 (5) ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT.—The Department of Health
58 shall establish the Parkinson's Disease Research Advisory Board,
59 an advisory body, as defined in s. 20.03, to oversee the
60 administration of the program.

61 (a) The advisory board shall consist of representatives
62 from:

63 1. Leading research institutions in the state.

64 2. Parkinson's disease advocacy organizations.

65 3. Caregiver support groups.

66 4. The medical community specializing in neurological
67 diseases.

68 (b) The advisory board shall establish guidelines for
69 grant applications, selection criteria, and reporting
70 requirements to ensure transparency and accountability.

71 (c) In accordance with s. 20.052(8), this subsection is
72 repealed October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved through
73 reenactment by the Legislature.

74 (6) REPORTING.—Recipients of grant funds shall submit an
75 annual report to the Department of Health detailing all of the

76 | following:

77 | (a) The progress of funded research.

78 | (b) Outcomes and measurable impacts of caregiver support
79 | programs.

80 | (c) Any additional recommendations for improving the
81 | effectiveness of the fund.

82 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.