

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Parkinson's disease; creating s.
3 1004.4352, F.S.; establishing the Consortium for
4 Parkinson's Disease Research within the University of
5 South Florida; establishing the Parkinson's Disease
6 Research Board; requiring the board to direct the
7 operations of the consortium and to annually adopt a
8 plan for Parkinson's disease research; providing
9 duties of the consortium director; providing research
10 requirements for the plan; requiring the board to
11 issue an annual report to the Governor and Legislature
12 by a specified date; providing that specified
13 provisions will be implemented subject to available
14 funding in the General Appropriations Act; creating s.
15 1004.4353, F.S.; establishing the Florida Institute
16 for Parkinson's Disease within the University of South
17 Florida; providing the purpose of the institute;
18 providing an effective date.

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20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22 Section 1. Section 1004.4352, Florida Statutes, is created
23 to read:

24 1004.4352 Parkinson's disease research.—

25 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the

26 "Parkinson's Disease Research Act."

27 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that:

28 (a) Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological
29 disorder affecting approximately one million Americans, with an
30 estimated 90,000 new diagnoses each year.

31 (b) Currently, there is no cure for Parkinson's disease
32 and innovative research is essential to advance therapies,
33 improve patient outcomes, and alleviate the burden of the
34 disease.

35 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

36 (a) "Board" means the Parkinson's Disease Research Board.

37 (b) "Consortium" means the Consortium for Parkinson's
38 Disease Research.

39 (4) CONSORTIUM FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH.—

40 (a) There is established within the University of South
41 Florida the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research which
42 shall consist of public and private universities and academic
43 medical centers. The purpose of the consortium is to conduct
44 rigorous scientific research and disseminate such research.

45 (b) The Parkinson's Disease Research Board is established
46 to direct the operations of the consortium. The board shall be
47 composed of members representing each participating university
48 or academic medical center appointed by the president or chief
49 executive officer of each participating university or academic
50 medical center. Board members must have experience in a variety

51 of scientific fields, including, but not limited to, neurology,
52 psychology, nutrition, and genetics. Members shall be appointed
53 to 4-year terms and may be reappointed to serve additional
54 terms. The chair shall be elected by the board from among its
55 members to serve a 2-year term. The board shall meet at least
56 semiannually at the call of the chair or, in his or her absence
57 or incapacity, the vice chair. Four members constitute a quorum.
58 A majority vote of the members present is required for all
59 actions of the board. The board may prescribe, amend, and repeal
60 a charter governing the manner in which it conducts its
61 business. Board members shall serve without compensation, but
62 are entitled to receive reimbursement for travel expenses by the
63 consortium or the organization he or she represents in
64 accordance with s. 112.061.

65 (c) The consortium shall be administered by a director,
66 who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the
67 board. The director shall, subject to the approval of the board:

- 68 1. Propose a budget for the consortium.
- 69 2. Foster the collaboration of scientists, researchers,
70 and other appropriate personnel in accordance with the
71 consortium's charter.
- 72 3. Engage individuals in public and private university and
73 academic medical center programs relevant to the consortium's
74 work to participate in the consortium.
- 75 4. Identify and prioritize the research to be conducted by

76 the consortium.

77 5. Prepare a plan for Parkinson's disease research for
78 submission to the board.

79 6. Apply for grants to obtain funding for research
80 conducted by the consortium.

81 7. Perform other duties as determined by the board.

82 (d) The board shall annually adopt a plan for Parkinson's
83 disease research. The plan must organize a program of research
84 that contributes to the body of scientific knowledge on the
85 causes, mechanisms, and potential treatments for Parkinson's
86 disease and the prevalence of Parkinson's disease in first
87 responders. The board must award funds to members of the
88 consortium to perform research consistent with the plan.

89 (e) By October 15 of each year, the board shall issue a
90 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
91 Speaker of the House of Representatives on research projects,
92 research findings, community outreach initiatives, and future
93 plans for the consortium.

94 (f) The provisions of this section shall be implemented to
95 the extent of available appropriations contained in the annual
96 General Appropriations Act for such purpose.

97 Section 2. Section 1004.4353, Florida Statutes, is created
98 to read:

99 1004.4353 Florida Institute for Parkinson's Disease.—The
100 Florida Institute for Parkinson's Disease is established within

101 the University of South Florida as a statewide resource for
102 Parkinson's disease research and clinical care. The purpose of
103 the institute is to find a cure for Parkinson's disease and to
104 improve the quality of life and health outcomes for those
105 affected by Parkinson's disease by advancing knowledge,
106 diagnosis, and treatment of Parkinson's disease through
107 research, clinical care, education, and advocacy.

108 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.