

By Senator Calatayud

38-01506A-25

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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 the purpose of the program;
6 requiring the Department of Health to create a
7 specified registry; providing for coverage of
8 specified testing; providing for funding and
9 allocations; requiring the Department of Health to
10 establish the Parkinson's Disease Research Advisory
11 Board; providing requirements for board membership and
12 duties; providing for future legislative review and
13 repeal of the advisory board; requiring grant
14 recipients to annually submit a specified report to
15 the department; providing an effective date.

16
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
21 disease, and innovative research is essential to advance
22 therapies, improve patient outcomes, and alleviate the burden of
23 this disease, NOW, THEREFORE,

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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 to
28 read:

29 381.992 Parkinson's disease research.-

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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 established
34 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) FUNDING AND ALLOCATION.—

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

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

47 1. Twenty million dollars shall be awarded through
48 competitive grants to state universities, research institutions,
49 and medical centers actively engaged in Parkinson’s disease
50 research with priority given to innovative therapies and
51 projects aimed at finding a cure.

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

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

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59 administration of the program.

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

62 1. Leading research institutions in the state.

63 2. Parkinson's disease advocacy organizations.

64 3. Caregiver support groups.

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

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

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

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

76 (a) The progress of funded research.

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

79 (c) Any additional recommendations for improving the
80 effectiveness of the program.

81 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.