

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/HB 1443](#)

**TITLE:** Parkinson's Disease Registry

**SPONSOR(S):** Busatta

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 1684](#) (Calatayud)

**LINKED BILLS:** [CS/HB 1445](#) Busatta

**RELATED BILLS:** [SB 1684](#) (Calatayud)

### Committee References

[Health Professions & Programs](#)

18 Y, 0 N, As CS

[Health Care Budget](#)

[Health & Human Services](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

HB 1443 requires the Parkinson's Research Board (Board) within the University of South Florida (USF) to contract with a private entity to establish and maintain a statewide Parkinson's disease registry. The contracted entity must provide regular reports on the data collected to the Board.

The bill requires, beginning January 1, 2027, allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO) physicians who diagnose or treat a patient with Parkinson's disease to regularly report nationally recognized Parkinson's disease performance measures to the registry. The bill grants liability protection from damages or any other relief for physicians who provide information to the registry.

The bill requires the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to appoint one member each to the Board.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill has a negative fiscal impact on the Board within USF related to the creation and maintenance of the Parkinson's disease registry. This impact is subject to a specific appropriation.

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## ANALYSIS

### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

The bill requires the [Parkinson's Disease Research Board](#) (Board) which oversees the [Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research](#) (Consortium) within the University of South Florida to, subject to a specific appropriation, contract with a private entity to establish and maintain a statewide [Parkinson's disease registry](#). The Board must require the contracted entity to use a nationally recognized platform to collect performance measures from physicians and regularly report such data to the Board. Such performance measures must be maintained by the registry and made available for use to improve or modify the Parkinson's disease care system, ensure compliance with standards and nationally recognized guidelines, and monitor patient outcomes.

The bill requires, beginning January 1, 2027, allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO)<sup>1</sup> physicians who diagnose or treat a patient with [Parkinson's disease](#) to regularly report nationally recognized Parkinson's disease performance measures to the registry. The bill grants liability protection from damages or any other relief for physicians who provide information to the registry.

The bill adds two new members to the Board, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

<sup>1</sup> Chapter 458, F.S., establishes the requirements for licensure as an allopathic physician while chapter 459, F.S., establishes the requirement for licensure as an osteopathic physician.

**STORAGE NAME:** h1443a.HCB

**DATE:** 2/4/2026

The bill is effective July 1, 2026.

## FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

### STATE GOVERNMENT:

The Parkinson's Disease Research Board within the University of South Florida will incur a negative fiscal impact related to contracting with a private entity to establish and maintain the Parkinson's disease registry. This impact is subject to a specific appropriation.<sup>2</sup>

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that impacts an individual's nervous system and causes unintended and slow movements, such as tremors, stiffness, and difficulty with balance.<sup>3</sup> Individuals with Parkinson's disease may have trouble walking, talking, and completing day-to-day tasks.

The exact cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown.<sup>4</sup> However, some studies have shown that Parkinson's disease is partially caused by damaged or dead neurons within the *substantia nigra*, which is an area of the brain that controls movement.<sup>5</sup> The neurons in this area produce dopamine that send signals to parts of the body to complete movements. However, neurons reduce their dopamine production when they become damaged or die, resulting in limited movement control. Neurons may become damaged from buildup of protein particles, called Lewy Bodies, that are not properly disposed of within brain cells.

Some studies have also indicated that Parkinson's disease may be genetic. About 10 to 15 percent of Parkinson's disease is caused by genetics.<sup>6</sup> Seven genes are linked to causing or increasing the risk of being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.<sup>7</sup> However, additional genes and environmental factors largely impact whether a genetic code leads to a diagnosis. Genetic testing is a recent development in Parkinson's disease research, and research on genetic origins is underdeveloped.

There is no cure for Parkinson's disease;<sup>8</sup> however, treatments and therapies can relieve some symptoms.<sup>9</sup> Most treatments focus on restoring dopamine in the brain through prescription medicines.<sup>10</sup> Individuals who cannot manage their symptoms through medication may seek relief through deep brain stimulation.<sup>11</sup> Deep brain stimulation requires surgical implants in a patient's brain and chest to stimulate affected parts of the brain with electrodes.

<sup>2</sup> The cost for the Parkinson's disease registry is currently unknown, however, Florida currently operates the [Florida Stroke Registry](#) at the University of Miami, the [Birth Defects Registry](#) at the University of South Florida, and the [Brain Tumor Registry](#) at the University of Florida. In Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Legislature appropriated \$1.5M for the Stroke Registry, \$450,000 for the Birth Defects Registry, and \$500,000 for the Brain Tumor Registry. See [Ch. 2025-198, L.O.F.](#) line items 436, 511, and 514, respectively.

<sup>3</sup> National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, *Parkinson's Disease* (Mar. 5, 2025), available at <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/parkinsons-disease> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> National Institute on Aging, *Parkinson's Disease: Causes, Symptoms, and Treatments* (April 14, 2022), available at <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/parkinsons-disease/parkinsons-disease-causes-symptoms-and-treatments> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Parkinson's Foundation, *Statistics*, available at <https://www.parkinson.org/understanding-parkinsons/statistics> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

<sup>7</sup> National Human Genome Research Institute, *About Parkinson's Disease*, available at [About Parkinson's Disease](#) (last visited Feb. 2, 2026)

<sup>8</sup> *Supra* note 2.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Roger A. Barker and Thomas B Stoker, *Recent developments in the treatment of Parkinson's Disease* (Jul. 31, 2020), available at <https://PMC.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7400683/> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

<sup>11</sup> *Supra* note 2.

Approximately one million Americans are affected by Parkinson's disease, with an estimated 90,000 new diagnoses each year.<sup>12</sup> Florida has the highest percentage of state population with Parkinson's disease in the United States, with the disease impacting about 79,990 Floridians.<sup>13</sup> The primary risk factor is age, with Parkinson's disease risk increasing around ages 65-years and older.<sup>14</sup> About 21 percent of Floridian's population is 65-years or older, the second highest in the U.S.<sup>15</sup>

### **Parkinson's Disease Registry**

A disease registry is a centralized database for the collection of information of specific diseases.<sup>16</sup> Such information is collected from a patient and clinical perspective and can inform every stage of the therapy development process.<sup>17</sup>

There is no national Parkinson's Disease registry, but several states have created state specific registries.<sup>18</sup> Florida does not currently operate a Parkinson's Disease registry.

### **Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research**

In 2025, the legislature created the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research (Consortium) within the University of South Florida (USF) comprised of public and private universities, and academic medical centers.<sup>19</sup> The purpose of the Consortium is to conduct and disseminate research on the causes, mechanisms, and potential treatments for Parkinson's Disease as well as the prevalence of Parkinson's Disease in first responders.<sup>20</sup>

### **Parkinson's Disease Research Board**

The Parkinson's Disease Research Board manages the Consortium's operations. Each year, the Board must adopt a Parkinson's disease research plan. The Board may adopt the Consortium's recommendation or create its own plan, provided it describes how the Consortium's research will contribute to knowledge of Parkinson's disease's causes, mechanisms, and treatments and the prevalence of Parkinson's disease in first responders.<sup>21</sup>

The Board consists of members representing participating universities or academic medical centers. Each president of the participating universities or academic medical centers appoints a member. No other entities are authorized to appoint members to the Board. Board members must have experience in scientific fields, such as neurology, psychology, nutrition, and genetics. Members serve a four-year term and may be reappointed.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> *Supra* note 5.

<sup>13</sup> Parkinson's Association of Southwest Florida, *Florida Parkinson Rate*, available at <https://parkinsonassociationswfl.org/parkinson-disease-in-florida.html> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

<sup>14</sup> *Supra* note 5.

<sup>15</sup> Population Reference Bureau, *States Ranked by Percent of Population* (2020), available at <https://www.prb.org/resources/which-us-states-are-the-oldest/> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

<sup>16</sup> National Institutes of Health, *Disease Registries*, available at <https://www.nihlibrary.nih.gov/resources/subject-guides/health-data-resources/disease-registries> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

<sup>17</sup> National Institutes of Health National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, *Toolkit for Patient-Focused Therapy Development - Patient Registries*, available at <https://toolkit.ncats.nih.gov/module/discovery/starting-a-patient-registry-natural-history-study-database/patient-registries/> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

<sup>18</sup> American Parkinson Disease Association, *How many people have Parkinson's disease?*, available at <https://www.apdaparkinson.org/article/parkinsons-disease-registries/> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026). Fourteen states currently have Parkinson's disease registries (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia).

<sup>19</sup> Ch. 2025-188, L.O.F.

<sup>20</sup> Section 1004.4352, F.S.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

Board members are prohibited from being compensated for their role. However, reimbursement for travel expenses, provided the costs are authorized, necessarily incurred, and follow the rates of per diem requirements in [S. 112.061, F.S.](#) is permitted.<sup>23</sup>

The Board may create, amend, and repeal a charter to govern itself. The Board must select a chair from among its members who will serve a two-year term. All of the Board's actions require a majority vote of present members. The Board must meet at least semiannually, and four members constitute a quorum.<sup>24</sup> As of January, 2026, a Board has not been appointed and USF is in the process of identifying the individuals that will serve on the Board.<sup>25</sup>

The Board must submit an annual report to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House by October 15 of each year describing the Consortium's current research projects and findings, community outreach initiatives, and future research programs.<sup>26</sup> USF issued the first report on October 15, 2025, which detailed the Consortium's mission purpose is to prioritize high-impact areas of Parkinson's disease research and disseminate the findings to improve the lives and outcomes of patients and families affected by Parkinson's disease. The report provided potential priority research projects, including the investigation of ways to reduce hazard exposure for certain high-risk populations, such as first responders, addressing tremors, and further research into pathological processes. The report also provided a prospective Board structure and potential appointees which includes, in addition to a Parkinson's disease patient or family member of a patient, a representative from:<sup>27</sup>

- The USF Morsani College of Medicine who shall serve as the initial chair;
- The University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine;
- The University of Florida's College of Medicine;
- The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research; and
- The Parkinson's Foundation.

## RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #/SUBJECT	HOUSE/SENATE SPONSOR(S)	OTHER INFORMATION
2025	<a href="#">CS/CS/HB 1545</a> - Parkinson's Disease	Busatta/ <i>Calatayud</i>	Approved by Governor.
2025	<a href="#">HB 1547</a> - Pub. Rec./Parkinson's Disease Research Program Registry	Busatta/ <i>Calatayud</i>	Died in House.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> Correspondence from Lauren Hartmann, Assistant Vice President of Government Relations, University of South Florida, HB 1443 Parkinson's Disease Registry, dated Jan. 27, 2026, on file with the Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> University of South Florida, *HB 1545 Parkinson's Research (October 15, 2025)*, on file with the Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee.

## BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Health Professions &amp; Programs Subcommittee</a>	18 Y, 0 N, As CS	1/29/2026	McElroy	Augustine
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:				
<a href="#">Health Care Budget Subcommittee</a>			Clark	Day
<a href="#">Health &amp; Human Services Committee</a>				

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**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**  
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