

CHAPTER 2025-188

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1545

An act relating to Parkinson's disease; creating s. 1004.4352, F.S.; establishing the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research within the University of South Florida; establishing the Parkinson's Disease Research Board; requiring the board to direct the operations of the consortium and to annually adopt a plan for Parkinson's disease research; providing duties of the consortium director; providing research requirements for the plan; requiring the board to issue an annual report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; providing that specified provisions will be implemented subject to available funding in the General Appropriations Act; creating s. 1004.4353, F.S.; establishing the Florida Institute for Parkinson's Disease within the University of South Florida; providing the purpose of the institute; providing an effective date.

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

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

1004.4352 Parkinson's disease research.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Parkinson's Disease Research Act.”

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

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

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

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

(a) “Board” means the Parkinson's Disease Research Board.

(b) “Consortium” means the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research.

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

(a) There is established within the University of South Florida the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research which shall consist of public and private universities and academic medical centers. The purpose of the

consortium is to conduct rigorous scientific research and disseminate such research.

(b) The Parkinson's Disease Research Board is established to direct the operations of the consortium. The board shall be composed of members representing each participating university or academic medical center appointed by the president or chief executive officer of each participating university or academic medical center. Board members must have experience in a variety of scientific fields, including, but not limited to, neurology, psychology, nutrition, and genetics. Members shall be appointed to 4-year terms and may be reappointed to serve additional terms. The chair shall be elected by the board from among its members to serve a 2-year term. The board shall meet at least semiannually at the call of the chair or, in his or her absence or incapacity, the vice chair. Four members constitute a quorum. A majority vote of the members present is required for all actions of the board. The board may prescribe, amend, and repeal a charter governing the manner in which it conducts its business. Board members shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to receive reimbursement for travel expenses by the consortium or the organization he or she represents in accordance with s. 112.061.

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

1. Propose a budget for the consortium.
2. Foster the collaboration of scientists, researchers, and other appropriate personnel in accordance with the consortium's charter.
3. Engage individuals in public and private university and academic medical center programs relevant to the consortium's work to participate in the consortium.
4. Identify and prioritize the research to be conducted by the consortium.
5. Prepare a plan for Parkinson's disease research for submission to the board.
6. Apply for grants to obtain funding for research conducted by the consortium.
7. Perform other duties as determined by the board.

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

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

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

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

1004.4353 Florida Institute for Parkinson’s Disease.—The Florida Institute for Parkinson’s Disease is established within the University of South Florida as a statewide resource for Parkinson’s disease research and clinical care. The purpose of the institute is to find a cure for Parkinson’s disease and to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for those affected by Parkinson’s disease by advancing knowledge, diagnosis, and treatment of Parkinson’s disease through research, clinical care, education, and advocacy.

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

Approved by the Governor June 25, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 25, 2025.