1	A bill to be entitled							
2	An act relating to the Department of Health; creating							
3	s. 381.991, F.S.; creating the Andrew John Anderson							
4	Pediatric Rare Disease Grant Program within the							
5	department for a specified purpose; subject to an							
6	appropriation by the Legislature, requiring the							
7	program to award grants for certain scientific and							
8	Clinical research; specifying entities eligible to							
9	apply for the grants; specifying the types of							
10	applications that may be considered for grant funding;							
11	providing for a competitive, peer-reviewed application							
12	and selection process; providing that the remaining							
13	balance of appropriations for the program as of a							
14	specified date may be carried forward for a specified							
15	timeframe under certain circumstances; providing an							
16	effective date.							
17								
18	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:							
19								
20	Section 1. Section 381.991, Florida Statutes, is created							
21	to read:							
22	381.991 Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare Disease Grant							
23	Program.—							
24	(1)(a) There is created within the Department of Health							
25	the Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare Disease Grant Program.							
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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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26 The purpose of the program is to advance the progress of 27 research and cures for pediatric rare diseases by awarding 28 grants through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. 29 (b) Subject to an annual appropriation by the Legislature, 30 the program shall award grants for scientific and clinical 31 research to further the search for new diagnostics, treatments, 32 and cures for pediatric rare diseases. 33 (2) (a) Applications for grants for pediatric rare disease 34 research may be submitted by any university or established research institute in the state. All qualified investigators in 35 the state, regardless of institutional affiliation, shall have 36 equal access and opportunity to compete for the research 37 38 funding. Preference may be given to grant proposals that foster 39 collaboration among institutions, researchers, and community 40 practitioners, as such proposals support the advancement of 41 treatments and cures of pediatric rare diseases through basic or 42 applied research. Grants shall be awarded by the department, 43 after consultation with the Rare Disease Advisory Council, pursuant to s. 381.99, on the basis of scientific merit, as 44 45 determined by the competitive, peer-reviewed process to ensure objectivity, consistency, and high quality. The following types 46 47 of applications may be considered for funding: 48 1. Investigator-initiated research grants. 49 2. Institutional research grants. 3. Collaborative research grants, including those that 50

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51	advance the finding of treatment and cures through basic or
52	applied research.
53	(b) To ensure appropriate and fair evaluation of grant
54	applications based on scientific merit, the department shall
55	appoint peer review panels of independent, scientifically
56	qualified individuals to review the scientific merit of each
57	proposal and establish its priority score. The priority scores
58	shall be forwarded to the council and must be considered in
59	determining which proposals shall be recommended for funding.
60	(c) The council and the peer review panels shall establish
61	and follow rigorous guidelines for ethical conduct and adhere to
62	a strict policy with regard to conflicts of interest. A member
63	of the council or panel may not participate in any discussion or
64	decision of the council or panel with respect to a research
65	proposal by any firm, entity, or agency that the member is
66	associated with as a member of the governing body or as an
67	employee or with which the member has entered into a contractual
68	arrangement.
69	(d) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,
70	the balance of any appropriation from the General Revenue Fund
71	for the Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare Disease Grant
72	Program that is not disbursed but that is obligated pursuant to
73	contract or committed to be expended by June 30 of the fiscal
74	year in which the funds are appropriated may be carried forward
75	for up to 5 years after the effective date of the original
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FLORIDA	HOUSE	OF REP	RESENTA	A T I V E S
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76	appr	opriatio	n.									
77		Section	2.	This	act	shall	take	effect	July	1,	2024.	
78												

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