

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 appropriations;  
13 providing an effective date.

14  
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
17 **Section 1. Section 1004.4352, Florida Statutes, is created**  
18 **to read:**

19 1004.4352 Parkinson's disease research.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

32        (b) "Consortium" means the Consortium for Parkinson's  
33        Disease Research.

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

35        (a) There is established within the University of South  
36        Florida the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research which  
37        shall consist of public and private universities. The purpose of  
38        the consortium is to conduct rigorous scientific research and  
39        disseminate such research.

40        (b) The Parkinson's Disease Research Board is established  
41        to direct the operations of the consortium. The board shall be  
42        composed of members representing each participating university  
43        and appointed by the president of each participating university.  
44        Board members must have experience in a variety of scientific  
45        fields, including, but not limited to, neurology, psychology,  
46        nutrition, and genetics. Members shall be appointed to 4-year  
47        terms and may be reappointed to serve additional terms. The  
48        chair shall be elected by the board from among its members to  
49        serve a 2-year term. The board shall meet at least semiannually  
50        at the call of the chair or, in his or her absence or

51 incapacity, the vice chair. Four members constitute a quorum. A  
52 majority vote of the members present is required for all actions  
53 of the board. The board may prescribe, amend, and repeal a  
54 charter governing the manner in which it conducts its business.  
55 Board members shall serve without compensation, but are entitled  
56 to receive reimbursement for travel expenses by the consortium  
57 or the organization he or she represents in accordance with s.  
58 112.061.

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

62 1. Propose a budget for the consortium.

63 2. Foster the collaboration of scientists, researchers,  
64 and other appropriate personnel in accordance with the  
65 consortium's charter.

66 3. Engage individuals in public and private university  
67 programs relevant to the consortium's work to participate in the  
68 consortium.

69 4. Identify and prioritize the research to be conducted by  
70 the consortium.

71 5. Prepare a plan for Parkinson's disease research for  
72 submission to the board.

73 6. Apply for grants to obtain funding for research  
74 conducted by the consortium.

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

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

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

88        **Section 2.** (1) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of  
89        \$8 million in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
90        Revenue Fund to the University of South Florida for Parkinson's  
91        disease research including, but not limited to, identifying the  
92        genetic origin of the disease and developing therapeutic  
93        interventions to slow or stop the progression of the disease.

94        (2) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of \$4 million  
95        in recurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund  
96        to the University of South Florida for the Consortium for  
97        Parkinson's Disease Research.

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