

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 that specified
13 provisions will be implemented subject to available
14 funding in the General Appropriations Act; providing
15 an effective date.

16
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

21 1004.4352 Parkinson's disease research.—

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

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

25 (a) Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological

26 disorder affecting approximately one million Americans, with an
27 estimated 90,000 new diagnoses each year.

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

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

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

34 (b) "Consortium" means the Consortium for Parkinson's
35 Disease Research.

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

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

42 (b) The Parkinson's Disease Research Board is established
43 to direct the operations of the consortium. The board shall be
44 composed of members representing each participating university
45 or academic medical center appointed by the president or chief
46 executive officer of each participating university or academic
47 medical center. Board members must have experience in a variety
48 of scientific fields, including, but not limited to, neurology,
49 psychology, nutrition, and genetics. Members shall be appointed
50 to 4-year terms and may be reappointed to serve additional

51 terms. The chair shall be elected by the board from among its
52 members to serve a 2-year term. The board shall meet at least
53 semiannually at the call of the chair or, in his or her absence
54 or incapacity, the vice chair. Four members constitute a quorum.
55 A majority vote of the members present is required for all
56 actions of the board. The board may prescribe, amend, and repeal
57 a charter governing the manner in which it conducts its
58 business. Board members shall serve without compensation, but
59 are entitled to receive reimbursement for travel expenses by the
60 consortium or the organization he or she represents in
61 accordance with s. 112.061.

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

65 1. Propose a budget for the consortium.

66 2. Foster the collaboration of scientists, researchers,
67 and other appropriate personnel in accordance with the
68 consortium's charter.

69 3. Engage individuals in public and private university and
70 academic medical center programs relevant to the consortium's
71 work to participate in the consortium.

72 4. Identify and prioritize the research to be conducted by
73 the consortium.

74 5. Prepare a plan for Parkinson's disease research for
75 submission to the board.

76 6. Apply for grants to obtain funding for research
77 conducted by the consortium.

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

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

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

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

94 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.