

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to cancer funding; amending s.
 3 381.915, F.S.; revising the purpose of the Casey
 4 DeSantis Cancer Research Program; revising duties of
 5 the Department of Health under the program; creating
 6 the Cancer Connect Collaborative, a council, within
 7 the department for a specified purpose; authorizing
 8 the collaborative to make certain recommendations on
 9 state policy relating to cancer research or treatment;
 10 providing for membership and meetings of the
 11 collaborative; requiring the collaborative to develop
 12 a long-range comprehensive plan for the program;
 13 requiring the collaborative to solicit input from
 14 certain stakeholders in the development of the plan;
 15 requiring the collaborative to submit the plan to the
 16 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
 17 specifying required components of the plan; requiring
 18 the department to provide administrative support and
 19 staff to the collaborative; requiring the
 20 collaborative to administer the Cancer Innovation
 21 Fund; requiring the collaborative to review grant
 22 applications and make recommendations to the
 23 department for awarding grants upon the appropriation
 24 of funds to the fund; requiring the department to make
 25 the final grant allocation award; requiring the

26 collaborative to prioritize certain applications for
 27 grant funding; revising the frequency with which the
 28 department, in conjunction with participating cancer
 29 centers, must submit a specified report to the Cancer
 30 Control and Research Advisory Council and the
 31 collaborative; requiring the department to submit the
 32 report, and any equivalent independent reports, to the
 33 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date each
 34 year; revising requirements of such reports; beginning
 35 on a specified date, requiring that each allocation
 36 agreement issued by the department relating to certain
 37 cancer center payments include specified elements;
 38 providing an effective date.

39

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

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42 Section 1. subsections (8), (9), and (10) of section
 43 381.915, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (10),
 44 (12), and (13), new subsections (8) and (9) and subsection (11)
 45 are added to that section, and subsection (2) of that section is
 46 amended, to read:

47 381.915 Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.—

48 (2) The Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program is
 49 established to enhance the quality and competitiveness of cancer
 50 care in this state, further a statewide biomedical research
 51 strategy directly responsive to the health needs of Florida's

52 citizens, ~~and~~ capitalize on the potential educational
53 opportunities available to its students, and promote the
54 provision of high-quality, innovative health care for persons
55 undergoing cancer treatment in this state. The department shall:

56 (a) Make payments to cancer centers recognized by the
57 National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of
58 Health as NCI-designated cancer centers or NCI-designated
59 comprehensive cancer centers, and cancer centers working toward
60 achieving NCI designation. The department shall distribute funds
61 to participating cancer centers on a quarterly basis during each
62 fiscal year for which an appropriation is made.

63 (b) Make cancer innovation grant funding available through
64 the Cancer Innovation Fund administered by the Cancer Connect
65 Collaborative under subsection (9) to health care providers and
66 facilities that demonstrate excellence in patient-centered
67 cancer treatment or research.

68 (8) The Cancer Connect Collaborative, a council as defined
69 in s. 20.03, is created within the department to advise the
70 department and the Legislature on developing a holistic approach
71 to the state's efforts to fund cancer research, cancer
72 facilities, and treatments for cancer patients. The
73 collaborative may make recommendations on proposed legislation,
74 proposed rules, best practices, data collection and reporting,
75 issuance of grant funds, and other proposals for state policy
76 relating to cancer research or treatment.

77 (a) The Surgeon General shall serve as an ex officio,
78 nonvoting member and shall serve as the chair.

79 (b) The collaborative shall be composed of the following
80 voting members, to be appointed by September 1, 2024:

81 1. Two members appointed by the Governor, one member
82 appointed by the President of the Senate, and one member
83 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, based
84 on the criteria of this subparagraph. The appointing officers
85 shall make their appointments prioritizing members who have the
86 following experience or expertise:

87 a. The practice of a health care profession specializing in
88 oncology clinical care or research;

89 b. The development of preventive and therapeutic treatments
90 to control cancer;

91 c. The development of innovative research into the causes
92 of cancer, the development of effective treatments for persons
93 with cancer, or cures for cancer; or

94 d. Management-level experience with a cancer center
95 licensed under chapter 395.

96 2. One member who is a resident of this state who can
97 represent the interests of cancer patients in this state,
98 appointed by the Governor.

99 (c) The terms of appointees under paragraph (b) shall be
100 for 2 years unless otherwise specified. However, to achieve
101 staggered terms, the initial appointees under that paragraph
102 shall serve 3 years for their first term. These appointees may
103 be reappointed for no more than four consecutive terms.

104 (d) Any vacancy occurring on the collaborative must be
105 filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Any

106 member who is appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of
107 death, resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve
108 only for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor.

109 (e) Members whose terms have expired may continue to serve
110 until replaced or reappointed, but for no more than 6 months
111 after the expiration of their terms.

112 (f) Members shall serve without compensation but are
113 entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses
114 pursuant to s. 112.061.

115 (g) The collaborative shall meet as necessary, but at least
116 quarterly, at the call of the chair. A majority of the members
117 of the collaborative constitutes a quorum, and a meeting may not
118 be held with less than a quorum present. In order to establish a
119 quorum, the collaborative may conduct its meetings through
120 teleconference or other electronic means. The affirmative vote
121 of a majority of the members of the collaborative present is
122 necessary for any official action by the collaborative.

123 (h) The collaborative shall develop a long-range
124 comprehensive plan for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research
125 Program. In the development of the plan, the collaborative must
126 solicit input from cancer centers, research institutions,
127 biomedical education institutions, hospitals, and medical
128 providers. The collaborative shall submit the plan to the
129 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
130 House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2024. The
131 plan must include, but need not be limited to, all of the
132 following components:

133 1. Expansion of grant fund opportunities to include a
 134 broader pool of Florida-based cancer centers, research
 135 institutions, biomedical education institutions, hospitals, and
 136 medical providers to receive funding through the Cancer
 137 Innovation Fund.

138 2. An evaluation to determine metrics that focus on patient
 139 outcomes, quality of care, and efficacy of treatment.

140 3. A compilation of best practices relating to cancer
 141 research or treatment.

142 (i) The department shall provide reasonable and necessary
 143 support staff and materials to assist the collaborative in the
 144 performance of its duties.

145 (9) The collaborative shall administer the Cancer
 146 Innovation Fund. During any fiscal year for which funds are
 147 appropriated to the fund, the collaborative shall review all
 148 submitted grant applications and make recommendations to the
 149 department for awarding grants to support innovative cancer
 150 research and treatment models, including emerging research and
 151 treatment trends and promising treatments that may serve as
 152 catalysts for further research and treatments. The department
 153 shall make the final grant allocation awards. The collaborative
 154 shall give priority to applications seeking to expand the reach
 155 of innovative cancer treatment models into underserved areas of
 156 this state.

157 (10) Beginning July 1, ~~2025~~ 2017, and each year ~~every 3~~
 158 ~~years~~ thereafter, the department, in conjunction with
 159 participating cancer centers, shall submit a report to the

160 Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council and the
161 collaborative on specific metrics relating to cancer mortality
162 and external funding for cancer-related research in this ~~the~~
163 state. If a cancer center does not endorse this report or
164 produce an equivalent independent report, the cancer center is
165 ineligible to receive ~~shall be suspended from the~~ program
166 funding for 1 year. The department must submit this annual
167 report, and any equivalent independent reports, to the Governor,
168 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
169 Representatives no later than September 15 of each year the
170 report or reports are submitted by the department. The report
171 must include:

172 (a) An analysis of trending age-adjusted cancer mortality
173 rates in the state, which must include, at a minimum, overall
174 age-adjusted mortality rates for cancer statewide and age-
175 adjusted mortality rates by age group, geographic region, and
176 type of cancer, which must include, at a minimum:

- 177 1. Lung cancer.
- 178 2. Pancreatic cancer.
- 179 3. Sarcoma.
- 180 4. Melanoma.
- 181 5. Leukemia and myelodysplastic syndromes.
- 182 6. Brain cancer.
- 183 7. Breast cancer.

184 (b) Identification of trends in overall federal funding,
185 broken down by institutional source, for cancer-related research
186 in the state.

187 (c) A list and narrative description of ~~collaborative~~
 188 ~~grants and~~ interinstitutional collaboration among participating
 189 cancer centers, which may include grants received by
 190 participating cancer centers in collaboration, a comparison of
 191 such ~~collaborative~~ grants in proportion to the grant totals for
 192 each cancer center, a catalog of retreats and progress seed
 193 grants using state funds, and targets for collaboration in the
 194 future and reports on progress regarding such targets where
 195 appropriate.

196 (11) Beginning July 1, 2024, each allocation agreement
 197 issued by the department relating to cancer center payments
 198 under subsection (2) must include all of the following:

199 (a) A line-item budget narrative documenting the annual
 200 allocation of funds to a cancer center.

201 (b) A cap on the annual award of 15 percent for
 202 administrative expenses.

203 (c) A requirement for the cancer center to submit quarterly
 204 reports of all expenditures made by the cancer center with funds
 205 received through the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.

206 (d) A provision to allow the department and other state
 207 auditing bodies to audit all financial records, supporting
 208 documents, statistical records, and any other documents
 209 pertinent to the allocation agreement.

210 (e) A provision requiring the annual reporting of outcome
 211 data and protocols used in achieving those outcomes.

212 ~~(12)-(9)~~ This section is subject to annual appropriation by
 213 the Legislature.

PCB HHS 24-03

ORIGINAL

2024

214 (13)~~(10)~~ The department may adopt rules to administer this
215 section.
216 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.