

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCB HCAS 15-03 Alzheimer's Disease Research

SPONSOR(S): Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

| REFERENCE | ACTION | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Orig. Comm.: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee | | Garner, Dobson | Pridgeon |

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill conforms statutes to the funding decisions included in the proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

The bill amends s. 381.82, F.S., allowing the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program to carry forward general revenue appropriations up to 5 years after an appropriation's effective date if obligated by July 1 of the first year after appropriated.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2015.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

The Florida Legislature created the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program in 2014 (program). The program is housed in the Department of Health (DOH) and is administered by an 11 member board known as the Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board (board). The program's purpose is to fund research leading to prevention of, or a cure for, Alzheimer's disease.

The board must consist of 11 members appointed by the State Surgeon General and must include two gerontologists, two geriatric psychiatrists, two geriatricians, two neuroscientists, and three neurologists, who serve 4-year staggered terms. The board must elect a chairperson from the membership of the board who will serve a term of two years, establish operating procedures, follow rigorous guidelines for ethical conduct, and adhere to a strict policy with regard to conflicts of interest. DOH staff assists the board in carrying out its duties. Board members do not receive compensation, or reimbursement for per diem or travel. Board activities are exempt from public records requirements.

The board must submit recommendations for funding of research proposals to the State Surgeon General by December 15 of each year. Upon receiving consultation from the board, the State Surgeon General is authorized to award grants on the basis of scientific merit. Applications for research funding may be submitted by any university or established research institute in the state, and all qualified investigators in the state must have equal access and opportunity to compete for research funding. The implementation of the program is subject to legislative appropriation. Statute specifies certain types of applications to be considered for funding, including:

- Investigatory-initiated research grants;
- Institutional research grants;
- Pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research fellowships; and
- Collaborative research grants, including those that advance the finding of cures through basic or applied research.

The board is required to annually submit a fiscal-year progress report on the research program to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the State Surgeon General by February 15. The report must include:

- A list of research projects supported by grants or fellowships awarded under the program;
- A list of recipients of program grants or fellowships;
- A list of publications in peer-reviewed journals involving research supported by grants or fellowships awarded under the program;
- The state ranking and total amount of Alzheimer's disease research funding currently flowing into the state from the National Institute of Health;
- New grants for Alzheimer's disease research which were funded based on research supported by grants or fellowships awarded under the program;
- Progress toward programmatic goals, particularly in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of Alzheimer's disease; and
- Recommendations to further the mission of the program.

In the Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board Annual Report 2014-15 the recommendations to further the mission of the program identified difficulties for researchers to complete the necessary research within the limited time frame of one year that a general revenue appropriation allows. The board recommended future appropriations made to the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's

Disease Research Program be funded from the Biomedical Research Trust Fund to allow research projects to span multiple years.¹

In 2014, The Legislature appropriated \$3,000,000 in general revenue funds to the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program. By default, general revenue appropriations that remain unspent at the end of a fiscal year revert to the state.² However, the legislature may supersede this provision by passing a law that specifically authorizes the appropriation to be carried forward.³ The program awarded eleven grants ranging from \$112,500 to \$500,000 each fully expending the \$3,000,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2014 - 2015.⁴

| Table 1 Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program Grant Awards, Fiscal Year 2014/2015 | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Grant Recipients | Research Projects | Institution | Award Amount |
| Ertekin-Taner, Nilufer | Florida Consortium for African-American Alzheimer's Disease Studies (FCA3DS) | Mayo Clinic Florida | \$ 500,000.00 |
| Loewenstein, David | A Consortium to Study Novel Markers of Early Alzheimer's Disease | University of Miami Miller School of Medicine | \$ 500,000.00 |
| Rademakers, Rosa | Identification of novel AD genes and disease associated pathways through FPADS: a Florida Presenile Alzheimer's Disease Subjects registry | Mayo Clinic Florida | \$ 500,000.00 |
| Lewis, Jada | Developing biotherapies for Alzheimer's Disease | University of Florida | \$ 250,000.00 |
| Dore, Sylvain | Therapeutic potential of PGE2 EP1 receptor selective antagonist. | University of Florida | \$ 225,000.00 |
| Bu, Guojun | ApoE and gender effects on Alzheimer's disease and cerebral amyloid angiopathy | Mayo Clinic Florida | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Kang, David | Targeting the Slingshot-Cofilin Pathway in AD | University of South Florida | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Moraes, Carlos T. | The Role of Mitochondrial Oxidative Phosphorylation Dysfunction in Alzheimer's Pathology | University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Wahlestedt, Claes | Epigenetic approach for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease | University of Miami Miller School of Medicine | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Lee, Daniel C. | Modulation of Arginine Metabolism and Polyamines to Mitigate Alzheimer's disease Pathology | University of South Florida | \$ 112,500.00 |
| Tan, Jun | Flavonoid-diosmin, a novel gamma-secretase modulator, for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease | University of South Florida | \$ 112,500.00 |

Effect of Proposed Changes

¹ See Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board, Annual Report 2014-15 p. 6.

² s. 216.301, F.S.

³ s.216.351, F.S.

⁴ See Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board, Annual Report 2014-15 p.4.

The bill implements the board's recommendation to allow the program to carry forward unspent general revenue appropriations up to five years after an appropriation's effective date if obligated by July 1 of the first year after appropriated thus allowing research projects to span multiple years. In the past, DOH has indicated that such a change allows them to offer longer grant periods, thus enabling researchers to conduct clinical trials that are more likely to result in a marketable product.⁵ Five years is consistent with grant timeframes seen in other research programs such as the National Institutes of Health.⁶

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 381.82, F.S., allowing the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program to carry forward unspent general appropriations funds for a period of five years.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The General Appropriations Act provides a \$3,000,000 recurring general revenue appropriation for this purpose.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Researchers will be able to perform multiyear projects and will benefit from having access to allocated grant funds over the course of a five year period.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable, this bill does not affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

⁵ See generally Health and Human Services Committee Bill Analysis of 2012, House Bill 655 p. 4 (3/26/12).

⁶ National Institutes of Health, http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm (last visited 3/5/2015).

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES