

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 within the department  
7           for a specified purpose; authorizing the collaborative  
8           to make certain recommendations on state policy  
9           relating to cancer research or treatment; providing  
10          for membership and meetings of the collaborative;  
11          requiring the collaborative to develop a long-range  
12          comprehensive plan for the program; requiring the  
13          collaborative to solicit input from certain  
14          stakeholders in the development of the plan; requiring  
15          the collaborative to submit the plan to the Governor  
16          and the Legislature by a specified date; specifying  
17          required components of the plan; requiring the  
18          department to provide administrative support and staff  
19          to the collaborative; requiring the collaborative to  
20          administer the Cancer Innovation Fund; requiring the  
21          collaborative to review grant applications and make  
22          recommendations to the department for awarding grants  
23          upon the appropriation of funds to the fund; requiring  
24          the department to make the final grant allocation  
25          award; requiring the collaborative to prioritize

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

39

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

41

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

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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  
86 experience or expertise in the following:

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

89 b. The development of preventive and therapeutic  
90 treatments 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  
116 least quarterly, at the call of the chair. A majority of the  
117 members of the collaborative constitutes a quorum, and a meeting  
118 may not be held with less than a quorum present. In order to  
119 establish a quorum, the collaborative may conduct its meetings  
120 through teleconference or other electronic means. The  
121 affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the  
122 collaborative present is necessary for any official action by  
123 the collaborative.

124 (h) The collaborative shall develop a long-range  
125 comprehensive plan for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research

126 Program. In the development of the plan, the collaborative must  
127 solicit input from cancer centers, research institutions,  
128 biomedical education institutions, hospitals, and medical  
129 providers. The collaborative shall submit the plan to the  
130 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
131 House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2024. The  
132 plan must include, but need not be limited to, all of the  
133 following components:

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

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

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

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

146 (9) The collaborative shall administer the Cancer  
147 Innovation Fund. During any fiscal year for which funds are  
148 appropriated to the fund, the collaborative shall review all  
149 submitted grant applications and make recommendations to the  
150 department for awarding grants to support innovative cancer

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151 research and treatment models, including emerging research and  
152 treatment trends and promising treatments that may serve as  
153 catalysts for further research and treatments. The department  
154 shall make the final grant allocation awards. The collaborative  
155 shall give priority to applications seeking to expand the reach  
156 of innovative cancer treatment models into underserved areas of  
157 this state.

158 (10)~~(8)~~ Beginning July 1, 2025 ~~2017~~, and each year ~~every 3~~  
159 ~~years~~ thereafter, the department, in conjunction with  
160 participating cancer centers, shall submit a report to the  
161 Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council and the  
162 collaborative on specific metrics relating to cancer mortality  
163 and external funding for cancer-related research in this ~~the~~  
164 state. If a cancer center does not endorse this report or  
165 produce an equivalent independent report, the cancer center is  
166 ineligible to receive ~~shall be suspended from the~~ program  
167 funding for 1 year. The department must submit this annual  
168 report, and any equivalent independent reports, to the Governor,  
169 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
170 Representatives no later than September 15 of each year the  
171 report or reports are submitted by the department. The report  
172 must include:

173 (a) An analysis of trending age-adjusted cancer mortality  
174 rates in the state, which must include, at a minimum, overall  
175 age-adjusted mortality rates for cancer statewide and age-

176 adjusted mortality rates by age group, geographic region, and  
 177 type of cancer, which must include, at a minimum:

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

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

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

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

200 (a) A line-item budget narrative documenting the annual



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201 allocation of funds to a cancer center.

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

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

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

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

214 ~~(12)-(9)~~ This section is subject to annual appropriation by  
215 the Legislature.

216 ~~(13)-(10)~~ The department may adopt rules to administer this  
217 section.

218 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.