

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	5 - 4 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, Cannon, Gelser, Kotek, Greenlick
Nays:	Bruun, Flores, Maurer, Richardson
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/9 (Access sub), 4/13 (Full), 4/23 (Full), 4/30 (Full)

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes the 13-member Human Stem Cell Research Committee within the Department of Human Services (DHS). Directs the committee to develop guidelines for research involving derivation or use of human stem cells and to report guidelines to the Legislative Assembly, the Governor and Oregon Health and Science University. Establishes the term of office for committee members. Directs the Human Stem Cell Research Committee to study the nature of informed consent in conjunction with human stem cell research. Establishes the Human Stem Cell Research Grant Fund. Authorizes the committee to seek private and public contributions for the purpose of funding research grants from the fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to committee.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Review of federal funding policy
- Adult stem cell versus embryonic stem cell research
- Current type of stem cell research being done
- Impact of stem cell research on multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, spinal cord injuries, and other disorders
- Distinction between aborted versus embryonic
- Stem cell versus cloning
- Advantages of embryonic stem cells versus adult stem cells
- Ethical issues, dilemmas and scenarios to be considered during deliberations on House Bill 2801

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes all embryonic references in the measure. Deletes the requirement that health care providers delivering fertility services provide information to patient about stem cell research and obtain written informed consent of person who elects to donate blastocyst after fertility treatment. Directs the committee to study the nature of informed consent in conjunction with human stem cell research.

BACKGROUND: Stem cells are cells that have the potential to develop into many different cell types in the body. Serving as a sort of repair system for the body, they can theoretically divide without limit to replenish other cells for as long as the person or animal is still alive. When a stem cell divides, each "daughter" cell has the potential to either remain a stem cell or become another type of cell with a more specialized function, such as a muscle cell, a red blood cell, or a brain cell.