

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Joint Ways & Means by prior reference
Vote:	5 - 1 - 2
Yeas:	Bailey, Galizio, Holvey, Witt, Read
Nays:	Gilliam
Exc.:	Bentz, Thatcher
Prepared By:	Barbara Allen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/3, 3/5, 4/7, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Human Stem Cell Research Committee within the Department of Human Services. Delineates the number of members to be appointed by the Governor, their term of office, the areas they will represent and other organizational rules. Requires the committee to study the nature of informed consent and provide recommendations to the Governor. Defines procedures and guidelines for the conduct of stem cell research. Establishes the Human Stem Cell Research Grant Fund, defines its rules and makes it separate and distinct from the General Fund. Defines when the crime of reproductive cloning is committed and defines terminology. Further defines violations and penalties associated with reproductive cloning. Delineates effective dates of various sections of the measure. Appropriates funds from the General Fund to provide administrative support to the committee beginning July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Economic development impact of scientific research
- Definition and scope of use of both embryonic and adult stem cells in research
- Therapeutic versus reproductive cloning of stem cells
- OHSU's research ethics guided by the National Academy of Science Guidelines on Stem Cell Research
- National Institute of Health's ethics guidelines for research and their restrictions on using embryonic stem cells
- Limits of using mice and other animals' stem cells for research
- Use of adult stem cells in regenerative therapy, studying the genetics of diseases, conducting scientific investigations and diagnostic testing
- Short and long-term costs associated with developing embryonic stem cell research programs
- Successes and failures of embryonic stem cell trials
- Options of where the committee could be housed
- Drafting error in the amendment which will be subsequently corrected to reflect a smaller budget for the committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: Stem cells are cells that have 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.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.