

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Use of state-appropriated funds for stem cell research

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Overview

This bill establishes a state policy for stem cell research. It allows the University of Minnesota to spend state funds on stem cell research. The bill requires health care providers treating patients for infertility to provide patients with information regarding options for the disposition of human embryos after fertility treatment. The bill prohibits the buying and selling of fetal tissue, but allows for donation of fetal tissue for research purposes. It requires written consent by patients who choose to donate human embryos to research. The bill, also, appropriates money from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota.

Section

- 1** **Stem cell research.** Adds § 137.45. Permits the University of Minnesota to spend state-appropriated funds on stem cell research.
- 2** **Legislative findings.** Adds § 145.426. States legislative findings and declarations including the following:
 - (a) States the estimated number of Americans inflicted with chronic, degenerative diseases and conditions.
 - (b) States the costs associated with chronic, degenerative diseases and conditions.
 - (c) States the potential benefits and contributions to medicine that stem cell research offers.
 - (d) States that the United States and Minnesota have historically been places for scientific

innovation.

(e) States the relationship between the biomedical industry and the Minnesota economy.

(f) States the effects of open scientific inquiry and publicly funded research on stem cell research and Minnesota's place as a leader in biomedicine and biotechnology. States that publicly funded stem cell research offers the most efficient and responsible means for accomplishing regenerative medical therapies via stem cell research.

(g) States that there are significant ethical and policy concerns associated with stem cell research.

(h) States that public policy on stem cell research must balance ethical and medical considerations.

3 State policy for stem cell research. Adds § 145.427.

Subd. 1. Research use permitted. Permits research that derives or uses human embryonic stem cells, human embryonic germ cells and human adult stem cells from any source, including somatic cell nuclear transplantation. Requires an approved institutional review board to review research that involves the derivation or use of human embryonic stem cells, human embryonic germ cells and human adult stem cells, including somatic cell nuclear transplantation.

Subd. 2. Informed consent. Requires health care providers treating patients for infertility to provide such patients information regarding the disposition of any human embryos after fertility treatment, including options for storing, discarding or donating embryos to another individual or for research. Requires any patient who chooses to donate embryos for research to provide written consent.

Subd. 3. Prohibiting sale of fetal tissue. (a) States that a person may not knowingly, for financial gain or advantage, buy, sell, transfer or promote the sale or transfer of fetal tissue for research purposes. Allows fetal tissue to be donated for research purposes.

(b) Provides that a violation of paragraph (a), prohibiting the sale of fetal tissue, constitutes a gross misdemeanor.

4 Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for FY 2008, for the purpose of carrying out stem cell research.