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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Swisstack ORIGINAL DATE 03/16/07
LAST UPDATED _____ HM 113
SHORT TITLE STUDY STEM CELL RESEARCH & USE SB _____
ANALYST Geisler

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		minimal				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: SB 894 and SB 1232.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 113 requests that the Department of Health study the laws currently in place regarding stem cell harvesting and use and to review further stem cell research, including the empirical scientific research that has produced conclusive results in animal trials and the research conducted on various sources of stem cells, such as stem cells from adults, amniotic fluid, umbilical cords or others sources, as well as from embryonic sources; and report to the Legislative Health and Human Services committee no later than October 2008 on study findings.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Fiscal implications are likely to be minimal to DOH.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Human stem cells are believed to hold promise for the understanding and treatment of many major acute and chronic developmental and degenerative diseases. Because of their potential to divide and specialize into many different cells types, stem cells have great potential for use in repairing damaged tissues to recover lost function. The ability of stem cells to be re-directed toward the development of different cells varies depending upon the source of the stem cell, with adult cells appearing to have more limited potential than embryonic, placental and amniotic stem cells.

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However, the ethical and legal concerns about this type of research is complex. The National Conference of State Legislatures website, in discussing state embryonic and fetal research laws posted the following:

“State laws may restrict the use of embryonic stem cells from some or all sources or specifically permit certain activities. State laws on the issue vary widely. Approaches to stem cell research policy range from statutes in California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts and New Jersey and an Executive Order in Illinois which encourage embryonic stem cell research; to South Dakota's law, which strictly forbids research on embryos regardless of the source. States that specifically permit embryonic stem cell research have established guidelines for scientists such as consent requirements and approval and review processes for projects.”

RELATIONSHIP

HM 113 relates to SB 894 and SB 1232, both of which involve stem cell related research.

GG/mt