

March 15, 2005

H 632. STEM CELL RESEARCH HEALTH & WELLNESS ACT. TO ENACT THE STEM CELL RESEARCH HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACT TO PERMIT STEM CELL RESEARCH UNDER LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND FOR ALLOCATION AS STEM CELL RESEARCH GRANTS. Effective July 1, 2005, appropriates \$10 million for 2005-06 from General Fund to Health and Wellness Trust Fund as title indicates, limits grants to \$1 million per grant recipient. Enacts new Part 4A of GS Chapter 130A, Article 16, to authorize stem cell research only with the informed consent of the donor and if stem cells are embryonic stem cells obtained from miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, or nonliving in-vitro fertilized embryos; or adult type stem cells obtained from umbilical cords, placentas, and amniotic fluid, or other tissues and organ systems; and where ethical and medical implications of research are considered and an institutional review board reviews research in accordance with federal regulations. Defines "miscarriage" as a spontaneous loss of pregnancy before the middle of the second trimester. Requires that treating physician or other health care provider provide patient receiving infertility treatment with information necessary for patient to make an informed decision regarding the disposition of any human embryos remaining after treatment, including a list of options for embryo use, and requires patient's written consent for donation of embryos for research purposes. Prohibits the purchase or sale of fetal tissue for research except as authorized by act. Imposes civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation.

Intro. by Jones.

Ref. to Health

GS 130A, APPROP