

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 742 (Delegate W. Miller, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund - Annual Report - Requirements

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This bill requires the annual report by the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and Stem Cell Research Commission to include the interim and final results of the stem cell research performed by each award recipient of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund, including the number of patients treated as a direct result of the research.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill does not affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 19 of 2006 created the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund to promote State-funded stem cell research and cures through grants and loans to public and private entities in Maryland. Annually, the Governor may include in the budget bill an appropriation to the Stem Cell Research Fund. Chapter 19 also established an independent Stem Cell Research Commission under TEDCO. The Stem Cell Research Commission must contract with an independent scientific peer review committee of scientifically recognized stem cell research experts, which evaluates stem cell research proposals for the commission. Committee members may not reside in the State.

TEDCO and the commission must submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the progress of State-funded stem cell research. The report must identify each fund recipient, the amount of money received, and a description of the type of stem cell research performed by the recipient.

**Background:** The commission is authorized to award three types of grants: investigator research grants, exploratory grants, and post-doctoral research grants. Almost all of the grants have been awarded to The Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

In fiscal 2010, the Stem Cell Research Fund supported 40 research grants that were approved from 141 applications. The Stem Cell Research Commission is in receipt of 255 letters of intent for fiscal 2011. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2012 budget includes \$12.4 million in general funds to support grants under the Stem Cell Research Fund, approximately the same amount as appropriated in fiscal 2010 and \$2 million less than fiscal 2011.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** *Annual Report 2010*, Maryland Stem Cell Commission; Department of Business and Economic Development; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2011  
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