

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1171

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

---

Task Force to Study Stem Cell Research

---

This bill establishes a 12-member Task Force to Study Stem Cell Research to be staffed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). Among other things, the task force must evaluate the commercial, constitutional, ethical, and policy issues surrounding the use of stem cells, including embryonic stem cells. A preliminary report of the task force's findings and recommendations is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1. A final report is due by December 1, 2003.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2002 and expires November 30, 2003.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DHMH are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** In August 2001, President George W. Bush decided that he would permit federal funding of research using the more than 60 existing stem cell lines that were derived at that point, but would not sanction the destruction of additional human embryos. Federal funds may only be used for research on existing stem cell lines that were derived with the informed consent of the donors, from excess embryos created

solely for reproduction, and without any financial inducements to the donors. The National Institutes of Health created a registry of the more than 60 stem cell lines that satisfy these criteria. No federal funds may be used for the derivation or use of stem cell lines taken from newly destroyed embryos, the creation of any human embryos for research, or the cloning of human embryos.

**Background:** Embryonic stem cells are obtained from either aborted fetuses or fertilized eggs that are left over from in vitro fertilization. They are useful for medical and research purposes because they can produce cells for almost every tissue in the body.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; National Institutes of Health; *White House Fact Sheet on Embryonic Stem Cell Research*; August 9, 2001; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2002  
mam/jr

---

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510