

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 871 (Delegate McComas, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Human Hybridization Prohibition Act of 2007

This bill prohibits interspecies hybridization and establishes criminal penalties for violators.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The criminal penalty provisions of this bill would not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The criminal penalty provisions of this bill would not materially affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill prohibits a person from: (1) fertilizing an oocyte from a human with nonhuman sperm to produce an embryo that has a predominately or partially human genetic constitution; (2) fertilizing an oocyte from a nonhuman with human sperm to produce an embryo that has a predominately or partially human genetic constitution; or (3) creating an embryo that has a predominately or partially human genetic constitution by introducing the nuclear material of one or more human somatic cells into an oocyte, the nucleus of which has been or will be removed or rendered inert.

The bill also prohibits a person from soliciting or knowingly creating or acquiring an organism, tissue or cell created by fertilizing a human oocyte with nonhuman sperm or a

nonhuman oocyte with human sperm or by introducing the nuclear material of one or more human somatic cells into an oocyte, the nucleus of which has been or will be removed or rendered inert.

A violator is guilty of a felony and on conviction subject to maximum penalties of 10 years imprisonment and/or a \$200,000 fine.

Current Law: A person may not conduct or attempt to conduct human cloning. A violator is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to maximum penalties of imprisonment for 10 years and/or a \$200,000 fine. A person who conducts State-funded stem cell research may not engage in any research that intentionally and directly leads to human cloning.

Background: Denmark specifically prohibits interspecific hybridization.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2007
bfl/jr

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