

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 628

(Senator Stoltzfus)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund - Annual Report - Requirements

This bill requires that the annual report required by the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and Stem Cell Research Commission include the number of patients treated as a direct result of the stem cell research performed by each grant or loan recipient of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund if the research performed by a recipient includes a clinical trial.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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, beginning in fiscal 2008, 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, to date.

In fiscal 2009, the Stem Cell Research Fund supported 58 research grants that were approved from 147 applications. The Stem Cell Research Commission is in receipt of 193 letters of intent for fiscal 2010. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2011 budget includes \$12.4 million in general funds to support grants under the Stem Cell Research Fund.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Business and Economic Development, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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