

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 3076

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the stem cell research program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 3, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 155 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 155. STEM CELL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Sec. 155.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Coordinating board" has the meaning assigned by Section 141.001.

(2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(3) "Program" means the stem cell research program established under this chapter.

Sec. 155.002. ADMINISTRATION; GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES. (a) The coordinating board shall administer the program to:

(1) make grants and loans to institutions of higher education and advanced medical research facilities in this state for:

(A) stem cell research;

(B) facilities for stem cell research; and

(C) other vital research opportunities to develop therapies, protocols, or medical procedures that will result in, as speedily as possible, the cure for, or substantial

1 mitigation of, major diseases, injuries, and orphan diseases;

2 (2) support institutions of higher education and
3 advanced medical research facilities in this state in all stages of
4 the process of developing cures using regenerative medicine, from
5 laboratory research through successful clinical trials; and

6 (3) establish the appropriate regulatory standards
7 and oversight bodies for stem cell research and facilities
8 development.

9 (b) The coordinating board shall develop research
10 priorities, guidelines, and procedures for the selection of
11 specific projects at institutions of higher education and advanced
12 medical research facilities.

13 (c) The guidelines and procedures developed by the
14 coordinating board must provide for awards on a competitive, peer
15 review basis for specific projects at institutions of higher
16 education and advanced medical research facilities.

17 Sec. 155.003. FUNDING. (a) The coordinating board shall
18 issue general obligation bonds in an aggregate amount not to exceed
19 \$295 million as authorized by Section 49-o, Article III, Texas
20 Constitution.

21 (b) The program is funded by the proceeds of the bonds
22 issued under Subsection (a), by appropriations, and by gifts,
23 grants, and donations made for that purpose.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.