

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 1486

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 that receive
4 grants under the program in all stages of the process of developing
5 cures using regenerative medicine, from laboratory research
6 through successful clinical trials;

7 (3) establish the appropriate regulatory standards
8 and oversight bodies for stem cell research and facilities
9 development at institutions and facilities that receive grants
10 under the program; and

11 (4) assist potential candidates for grants under the
12 program in the grant application process.

13 (b) The coordinating board shall develop research
14 priorities, guidelines, and procedures for the selection of
15 specific projects at institutions of higher education and advanced
16 medical research facilities.

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

21 Sec. 155.003. FUNDING. The program may be funded by:

22 (1) appropriations; or

23 (2) gifts, grants, and donations made for that
24 purpose.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.