

HCS HB 1534 -- LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH

SPONSOR: Cooper, 155 (Lembke)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute requires 25% of the funds received from subsequent participating manufacturers in the Tobacco Settlement Agreement that are deposited into the Life Sciences Research Trust Fund to be expended by the Life Sciences Research Board. The board is required to spend 25% of the moneys in the trust fund for the program that awards grants to establish and expand umbilical cord blood banks. The remaining 75% must fund life science research projects involving the study, use, or therapies involving human stem cells derived from non-embryonic and non-fetal sources.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say the bill will put a portion of the moneys received from subsequent participating manufacturers of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement into research funds for umbilical cord and adult stem cell research. Cord blood is a non-controversial source of stem cells that is abundantly available.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lembke; Campaign Life Missouri; St. Louis Blood Cord Bank, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center; Missouri Right to Life; Missouri Catholic Conference; Missouri Family Network; and Missouri Baptist Convention, Christian Life Commission.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst