

HB 1271 -- Stem Cell Research

Sponsor: Schoeller

This bill establishes requirements regarding stem cell research. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Specifies that reproductive cells collected for use in the in vitro fertilization process cannot be used for research without the consent of the donor;
- (2) Specifies that decisions regarding the creation of embryos for infertility treatment cannot be influenced by investigators who plan to use stem cells in research, and whenever possible, the physician responsible for the infertility treatment and the investigator should not be the same person;
- (3) Requires individuals performing human egg extraction for research purposes to function independently from any in vitro fertilization services;
- (4) Specifies that relatives or co-workers of individuals performing research on human eggs cannot donate eggs for research;
- (5) Specifies that no payments will be made to an in vitro fertilization patient for donations in excess of the clinical need for research purposes;
- (6) Specifies that a woman undergoing hormonal induction to create reproductive cells for research purposes can be reimbursed for direct expenses as a result of the procedure. There will be no reimbursement for donations of sperm or somatic cells for use in nuclear transfer;
- (7) Requires that consent for a donation be obtained from each donor at the time of donation. A person who has expressed an intent to donate reproductive cells after clinical care is required to give informed consent at the time of donation;
- (8) Requires clinical staff to provide appropriate care without prejudice regarding the patient's decision to consent or refuse to donate embryos;
- (9) Specifies that clinical personnel who have a conscientious objection to embryonic stem cell research or somatic cell nuclear transfer research cannot be required to provide donor information or secure donor consent for research;
- (10) Specifies that researchers cannot ask members of the

infertility treatment team to create more cells than necessary. An infertility clinic or other third party obtaining consent or collecting materials cannot be paid for the material obtained;

(11) Requires that uniform tracking systems and common guidelines for the distribution of cells be established; and

(12) Requires the institutional review board to verify compliance with the provisions of the bill prior to collaboration between a Missouri-based investigator and an investigator in another state or country.

Any person violating the provisions of the bill will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. A second or subsequent violation will be a class D felony.