

By the Committee on Health Care Services and  
 Representative Peadar

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Public Cord Blood Tissue  
 3           Bank; creating the Public Cord Blood Tissue  
 4           Bank as a statewide consortium; providing  
 5           purposes, membership, and duties of the  
 6           consortium; providing duties of the Agency for  
 7           Health Care Administration; providing  
 8           requirements of specified state-funded health  
 9           care programs; providing an exception from  
 10          provisions of the act; requiring specified  
 11          written disclosure by certain health care  
 12          facilities and providers; specifying that  
 13          donation under the act is voluntary;  
 14          authorizing the consortium to charge fees;  
 15          providing appropriations; providing an  
 16          effective date.

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 18           WHEREAS, research has shown that the blood from  
 19          umbilical cords can serve as an important alternative source  
 20          for stem and progenitor cells for bone marrow transplants, and

21           WHEREAS, people needing a bone marrow transplant often  
 22          cannot find a suitable donor because there must be a very  
 23          close match between the donor's tissue and the recipient's  
 24          tissue, and

25           WHEREAS, because of unique genetic concerns, ethnic  
 26          minorities often have difficulty finding a matched unrelated  
 27          bone-marrow donor when a matching sibling donor is not  
 28          available, and

29           WHEREAS, when umbilical cord blood is used, there is  
 30          not the need for as close a match as with an adult donor, so  
 31          the chances of a suitable match are greatly increased, and

1           WHEREAS, because umbilical cord blood is ordinarily  
2 discarded, such transplants use a stem cell source that  
3 otherwise would go to waste, NOW, THEREFORE,

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5 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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7           Section 1. PUBLIC CORD BLOOD TISSUE BANK.--

8           (1) There is established a statewide consortium to be  
9 known as the Public Cord Blood Tissue Bank. The Public Cord  
10 Blood Tissue Bank is established as a nonprofit legal entity  
11 to collect, screen for infectious and genetic diseases,  
12 perform tissue typing, cryopreserve, and store umbilical cord  
13 blood as a resource to the public. The University of Florida,  
14 the University of South Florida, and the University of Miami  
15 shall jointly form the collaborative consortium, each working  
16 with community resources such as regional blood banks,  
17 hospitals, and other health care providers to develop local  
18 and regional coalitions for the purposes set forth in this  
19 act. The three universities shall align their outreach  
20 programs and activities to all geographic areas of the state,  
21 covering the entire state. The consortium is encouraged to  
22 conduct outreach and research for Hispanics, African  
23 Americans, Native Americans, and other ethnic and racial  
24 minorities.

25           (2) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall  
26 develop and make available to all health care providers  
27 information relating to and standardized release forms for  
28 donation of umbilical cord blood. The agency and the  
29 Department of Health shall encourage health care providers,  
30 including, but not limited to, hospitals, birthing facilities,  
31 county health departments, physicians, midwives, and nurses,

1 to disseminate information about the Public Cord Blood Tissue  
2 Bank.

3 (3) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall  
4 develop training materials for agencies and state employees  
5 working with pregnant women to educate and inform pregnant  
6 women about the public cord blood tissue bank program.

7 (4) All state-funded health care programs providing  
8 education or services to pregnant women shall provide  
9 information on the Public Cord Blood Tissue Bank program.  
10 Information regarding this program shall be provided by, but  
11 not be limited to, the Healthy Start program, county health  
12 departments, Medicaid, and MediPass.

13 (5) Nothing in this act creates a requirement of any  
14 health care or services program that is directly affiliated  
15 with a bona fide religious denomination that includes as an  
16 integral part of its beliefs and practices the tenet that  
17 blood transfer is contrary to the moral principles the  
18 denomination considers to be an essential part of its beliefs.

19 (6) Any health care facility or health care provider  
20 receiving financial remuneration for the collection of  
21 umbilical cord blood shall provide written disclosure of this  
22 information to any woman postpartum or parent of a newborn  
23 from whom the umbilical cord blood is collected prior to the  
24 harvesting of the umbilical cord blood.

25 (7) All women admitted to a hospital or birthing  
26 facility for obstetrical services may be offered the  
27 opportunity to donate umbilical cord blood to the Public Cord  
28 Blood Tissue Bank. No woman shall be required to make such a  
29 donation.

30 (8) The consortium may charge reasonable rates and  
31 fees to recipients of cord blood tissue bank products.

1           Section 2. There is appropriated from the General  
2 Revenue Fund jointly to the University of Florida, the  
3 University of South Florida, and the University of Miami the  
4 sum of \$1.9 million to fund the statewide consortium Public  
5 Cord Blood Tissue Bank.

6           Section 3. There is appropriated from the General  
7 Revenue Fund to the Agency for Health Care Administration the  
8 sum of \$50,000 to develop standardized release forms and  
9 training and education materials for the Public Cord Blood  
10 Tissue Bank.

11           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Creates the Public Cord Blood Tissue Bank as a nonprofit statewide consortium consisting of the University of Florida, the University of South Florida, and the University of Miami for the purpose of collecting, screening for infectious and genetic diseases, tissue typing, cryopreserving, and storing umbilical cord blood as a resource to the public. Requires the consortium to align outreach programs and activities to all areas of the state.

Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to develop and make available to all health care providers information and standardized release forms relating to the tissue bank. Requires the agency to develop specified training materials and perform educational and informational duties with respect to the Public Cord Blood Tissue Bank program.

Requires all state-funded health care programs to provide information on the tissue bank program. Provides an exception to the provisions of the act for specified religious affiliates. Requires written disclosure by health care providers or facilities who receive financial remuneration for the collection of umbilical cord blood. Specifies that donation under the act is voluntary. Authorizes the consortium to charge reasonable fees to recipients of blood tissue bank products.

Provides a \$1.9 million appropriation for the creation of the Public Cord Blood Tissue Bank. Provides a \$50,000 appropriation to the Agency for Health Care Administration to develop release forms and training and educational materials required by the act.