

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to stem cell research; creating a stem
 3 cell research program; requiring the program to conform to
 4 certain ethical standards; requiring research to be
 5 conducted in institutions within the state; providing an
 6 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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 8 WHEREAS, in 2000, Hadassah Medical Organization teamed up
 9 with scientists in Australia and Singapore and developed six
 10 embryonic stem cell lines from early human embryos, and

11 WHEREAS, these stem cell lines were developed in accordance
 12 with the ethical guidelines published by the National Institutes
 13 of Health, which requires that all cell lines be derived from
 14 embryos that were originally created for fertility treatments,
 15 and

16 WHEREAS, in April 2002, the National Institutes of Health
 17 permitted the use of six existing stem cell lines meeting the
 18 criteria articulated by President George W. Bush in his August
 19 9, 2001, address, and

20 WHEREAS, scientists at the National Institutes of Health
 21 and elsewhere are now able to access these cell lines to explore
 22 new areas of research in this emerging field of technology, and

23 WHEREAS, stem cells are cells that have the remarkable
 24 potential to develop into many different cell types in the body,
 25 theoretically dividing without limit to replenish other cells
 26 for as long as the person or animal is alive, and

27 WHEREAS, when a stem cell divides, each daughter cell has
 28 the potential to either remain a stem cell or become another

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29 type of cell with a more specialized function, such as a muscle
 30 cell, a red blood cell, or a brain cell, and

31 WHEREAS, this medical research holds the promise of
 32 creating living tissue joints and organs that integrate with
 33 existing organs and bone and function like natural body parts,
 34 and

35 WHEREAS, eventually, stem cells could help those suffering
 36 with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis by growing new connections
 37 between nerves and muscles, and

38 WHEREAS, stem cells can help cure juvenile diabetes by
 39 turning embryonic stem cells into healthy, insulin-producing
 40 islet cells, and

41 WHEREAS, it is believed Parkinson's disease could be cured
 42 in as little as five years with adequate resources, and

43 WHEREAS, victims of spinal cord injuries would benefit
 44 greatly with even limited restoration of lost functions such as
 45 the partial use of a limb, the restoration of bladder control,
 46 or being freed from pain, and

47 WHEREAS, stem cells may be used to treat the tissue
 48 toxicity resulting from cancer therapy, and

49 WHEREAS, cancer cells may have similar properties to stem
 50 cells and may provide insights into why cancer cells survive
 51 despite aggressive treatments, NOW, THEREFORE,

52

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

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55 Section 1. There is hereby established a state stem cell
 56 research program. The program shall use the ethical guidelines

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57 published by the National Institutes of Health, requiring that
58 all cell lines be derived from the six existing stem cell line
59 embryos that were originally created for fertility treatments.
60 All research shall be conducted in institutions within the
61 state.

62 Section 2. The sum of \$10 million is appropriated from the
63 General Revenue Fund to the stem cell research program.

64 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.