

By Senator Aronberg

27-136A-06

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to adult human and animal stem

3 cell research; establishing the Florida Gulf

4 Coast University Institute for Stem Cell

5 Biology; providing the purpose of the

6 institute; providing an appropriation;

7 providing an effective date.

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9 WHEREAS, an estimated 128 million Americans suffer from

10 the crippling economic and psychological burden of chronic,

11 degenerative, and acute diseases and conditions, including

12 juvenile diabetes, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease,

13 sickle cell disease, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease,

14 spinal cord injuries, birth defects, osteoporosis, severe burn

15 injuries, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and

16 HIV/AIDS, and

17 WHEREAS, the costs of treatment and lost productivity

18 of these diseases and conditions in the United States

19 constitute hundreds of billions of dollars every year, and

20 WHEREAS, human stem cell research is a key area of

21 regenerative medicine which offers immense promise for

22 developing new medical therapies and potential cures for these

23 debilitating diseases and conditions and a critical means to

24 explore fundamental questions of biology, and

25 WHEREAS, the United States has historically been a

26 haven for open scientific inquiry and technological

27 innovation, and this environment, combined with the commitment

28 of public and private resources, has made this nation the

29 preeminent world leader in biomedicine and biotechnology, and

30 WHEREAS, the biomedical industry is a critical and

31 growing component of Florida's economy and would be

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 significantly diminished by limitations imposed on human stem
2 cell research, and

3 WHEREAS, open scientific inquiry and publicly funded
4 research will be essential to realizing the promise of stem
5 cell research and maintaining this state's leadership in
6 biomedicine and biotechnology, and

7 WHEREAS, publicly funded adult stem cell research,
8 conducted under established standards of open scientific
9 exchange, peer review, and public oversight, offers the most
10 timely, efficacious, and responsible means of fulfilling the
11 promise of stem cells to provide regenerative medical
12 therapies and to accelerate the development of new diagnostic
13 and prophylactic capabilities for the early detection of
14 debilitating, incurable diseases, and

15 WHEREAS, stem cell research, including the use of
16 embryonic stem cells for medical research, raises significant
17 ethical and public policy concerns, and, although not unique,
18 the ethical and policy concerns associated with stem cell
19 research must be carefully considered, and

20 WHEREAS, in 2004, 30 states proposed 78 bills relating
21 to stem cell research, and nine states enacted legislation to
22 approve state funding of this research, and

23 WHEREAS, the State of Florida, with its rich legacy of
24 world leadership in scientific research and discovery, is
25 actively promoting the development of biotechnology because of
26 its potentially great importance to the state's economy as
27 well as the health of its residents, and

28 WHEREAS, the Legislature desires to foster research
29 that will advance the state of medical and scientific
30 knowledge, offer enormous potential to save human lives and
31 treat debilitating, incurable diseases, and allow the State of

1 Florida to have a significant role in the emerging biomedical
2 technology field, to the benefit of all of its residents, NOW,
3 THEREFORE,

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

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7 Section 1. Florida Gulf Coast University Institute for
8 Stem Cell Biology.--

9 (1) There is established the Florida Gulf Coast
10 University Institute for Stem Cell Biology under the
11 supervision of the university president or his or her
12 designee. The institute shall operate as a consortium of state
13 universities. The consortium may include, but is not limited
14 to, private universities, health care facilities, and
15 governmental entities.

16 (2) The purpose of the institute is to conduct stem
17 cell research involving adult human stem cells, umbilical cord
18 blood stem cells, or model animal stem cells that target the
19 development of platform technologies and capabilities for
20 novel therapies and diagnostics. The institute shall ensure
21 the rapid and seamless transition of basic and applied
22 research to clinical evaluation and commercialization.

23 Section 2. The sum of \$32 million is appropriated from
24 the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Gulf Coast University
25 to operate the institute during the 2006-2007 fiscal year and
26 to plan, construct, and equip a facility for the institute.

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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SENATE SUMMARY

Establishes the Florida Gulf Coast University Institute
for Stem Cell Biology. Provides the purpose of the
institute.