

HB 751

2006

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to adult human and animal stem cell
3 research; establishing the Florida Gulf Coast University
4 Institute for Stem Cell Biology; providing the purpose of
5 the institute; providing an appropriation; providing an
6 effective date.

7
8 WHEREAS, an estimated 128 million Americans suffer from the
9 crippling economic and psychological burden of chronic,
10 degenerative, and acute diseases and conditions, including
11 juvenile diabetes, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease,
12 sickle cell disease, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease,
13 spinal cord injuries, birth defects, osteoporosis, severe burn
14 injuries, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and
15 HIV/AIDS, and

16 WHEREAS, the costs of treatment and lost productivity as a
17 result of these diseases and conditions in the United States
18 constitute hundreds of billions of dollars every year, and

19 WHEREAS, human stem cell research is a key area of
20 regenerative medicine which offers immense promise for
21 developing new medical therapies and potential cures for these
22 debilitating diseases and conditions and a critical means to
23 explore fundamental questions of biology, and

24 WHEREAS, the United States has historically been a haven
25 for open scientific inquiry and technological innovation, and
26 this environment, combined with the commitment of public and
27 private resources, has made this nation the preeminent world
28 leader in biomedicine and biotechnology, and

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29 WHEREAS, the biomedical industry is a critical and growing
30 component of Florida's economy and would be significantly
31 diminished by limitations imposed on human stem cell research,
32 and

33 WHEREAS, open scientific inquiry and publicly funded
34 research will be essential to realizing the promise of stem cell
35 research and maintaining this state's leadership in biomedicine
36 and biotechnology, and

37 WHEREAS, publicly funded adult stem cell research,
38 conducted under established standards of open scientific
39 exchange, peer review, and public oversight, offers the most
40 timely, efficacious, and responsible means of fulfilling the
41 promise of stem cells to provide regenerative medical therapies
42 and to accelerate the development of new diagnostic and
43 prophylactic capabilities for the early detection of
44 debilitating, incurable diseases, and

45 WHEREAS, stem cell research, including the use of embryonic
46 stem cells for medical research, raises significant ethical and
47 public policy concerns, and, although not unique, the ethical
48 and policy concerns associated with stem cell research must be
49 carefully considered, and

50 WHEREAS, in 2004, 30 states proposed 78 bills relating to
51 stem cell research, and nine states enacted legislation to
52 approve state funding of this research, and

53 WHEREAS, the State of Florida, with its rich legacy of
54 world leadership in scientific research and discovery, is
55 actively promoting the development of biotechnology because of
56 its potentially great importance to the state's economy as well

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57 as the health of its residents, and

58 WHEREAS, the Legislature desires to foster research that
 59 will advance the state of medical and scientific knowledge,
 60 offer enormous potential to save human lives and treat
 61 debilitating, incurable diseases, and allow the State of Florida
 62 to have a significant role in the emerging biomedical technology
 63 field, to the benefit of all of its residents, NOW, THEREFORE,

64
 65 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

66
 67 Section 1. Florida Gulf Coast University Institute for
 68 Stem Cell Biology.--

69 (1) There is established the Florida Gulf Coast University
 70 Institute for Stem Cell Biology under the supervision of the
 71 university president or his or her designee. The institute shall
 72 operate as a consortium of state universities. The consortium
 73 may include, but is not limited to, private universities, health
 74 care facilities, and governmental entities.

75 (2) The purpose of the institute is to conduct stem cell
 76 research involving adult human stem cells, umbilical cord blood
 77 stem cells, or model animal stem cells that target the
 78 development of platform technologies and capabilities for novel
 79 therapies and diagnostics. The institute shall ensure the rapid
 80 and seamless transition of basic and applied research to
 81 clinical evaluation and commercialization.

82 Section 2. The sum of \$32 million is appropriated from the
 83 General Revenue Fund to the Florida Gulf Coast University to
 84 operate the Institute for Stem Cell Biology during the 2006-2007

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85 fiscal year and to plan, construct, and equip a facility for the
86 institute.

87 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.