By Senator Geller

31-273-06

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to stem cell research; creating a stem cell research program; requiring the program to conform to certain ethical standards; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

WHEREAS, when a stem cell divides, each daughter cell has the potential to either remain a stem cell or become another type of cell having a more specialized function, such as a muscle cell, a red blood cell, or a brain cell, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. <u>There is established a state stem cell research program. The program shall use the ethical guidelines published by the National Institutes of Health, requiring that all cell lines be derived from the six existing stem cell line embryos that were originally created for fertility treatments.</u>

Section 2. <u>The sum of $10 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the stem cell research program.</u>

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

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SENATE SUMMARY

Establishes a state stem cell research program. Requires that all cell lines be derived from six existing stem cell line embryos.