

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2098

As Recommended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2098 would enact new law to establish definitions of terms related to human cloning for the purpose of legislative committee studies and inquiries, as well as the future construction of state statute. Human cloning, part of a four-part definition for cloning, would mean "asexual reproduction of a new human organism that is, at all stages of development, genetically virtually identical to a currently existing or previously existing, human being." Other terms defined in the bill include cloned embryo, embryo, and stem cells.

Background

HB 2098 was introduced by the House Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of Representative Peggy Mast. David Prentice, Family Research Council, spoke in support of the bill at the House Committee hearing. Prentice discussed the development of definitions, noting that the bill does not take a position on stem cell research, but instead establishes working definitions incorporating those from the President's Council on Bioethics (2002). Other supporters of the bill were Concerned Women of America, the Kansas Catholic Conference, and Kansans for Life. Dr. Paul Terranova, Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Kansas Medical Center, provided neutral testimony about the definitions used in the bill, noting that some of the definitions in the bill are not consistent with those established by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS). The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) opposed the bill, stating that the bill would marginalize Kansas in the global biotechnology marketplace and would define terms for future legislative debate absent current policy. The Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures also provided testimony in opposition to the bill.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates that the bill defines and clarifies terminology related to human cloning and that passage of the bill would have no specific fiscal effect.