

Revised
SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2255

As Amended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2255 would enact new law prohibiting expenditure by state agencies of appropriations from the State General Fund or from any special revenue fund for certain activities related to human cloning. Specifically, the bill would prohibit use of appropriated funds to:

- Perform or attempt to perform human cloning to create a cloned embryo;
- Participate in an attempt to perform human cloning to create a cloned embryo; or
- Ship or knowingly receive the product of human cloning for any purpose.

The bill also would define a number of terms. Among the defined terms are "human cloning" and "cloned embryo." "Human cloning" would be defined as "the 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." "Cloned embryo" would be defined to be "an embryo arising from the somatic cell nuclear transfer process as contrasted with an embryo arising from the union of an egg and sperm." Other terms defined in the bill include asexual reproduction, diploid, diploid human cell, haploid human cell, nuclear transfer, oocyte, somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), somatic cell (human), and sperm.

*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>

Background

Representative Kinzer presented testimony in support of the bill at the House Health and Human Services Committee hearing. Representatives of Concerned Women of America, Kansans for Life and the Kansas Catholic Conference also supported the bill at the House Committee hearing.

Opponents of the bill who presented testimony to the House Committee included representatives of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the Parkinson Foundation of the Heartland, Americans for Stem Cell Therapies and Cures, Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, a medical student, and a medical sociologist. Representatives of the Bio Ethics Defense Fund and the KU Medical Center presented neutral testimony on the bill.

The House Committee amended the bill to specify that the prohibition covers creation of a cloned embryo. The House Committee amendment also added 10 definitions to the bill that also were in HB 2098 as recommended by the House Committee, and to include a definition of the term "sperm." Those definitions replace definitions of "human cloning," "oocyte," and "somatic cell" in the introduced version of the bill.

The Division of the Budget's fiscal note for the bill states that the Office of Judicial Administration does not expect that the passage of HB 2255 would have a fiscal effect on the courts.