



2018 New York State YMCA

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Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 6

Bill #: AL-40

1 **Sponsors:** Lauren Lammers, MacKenzie Randolph, and Phoebe Rigley

2
3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Section 99-P of the State Finance Law by creating a specialized committee
5 known as the "Embryonic Stem Cell Research Committee" and subsequently
6 allocating funds toward it.

7
8 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

9
10 **Purpose**

11 The purpose of this bill is to pursue more cost effective medical treatment for the
12 citizens of New York through the allocation of funds towards embryonic stem cell
13 research.

14
15 **Summary of Provisions**

16 **Section 1: Definitions**

17 **Embryonic Stem Cell:** the simplest form of a stem cell derived from the

18 undifferentiated inner mass of an embryo capable of propagating itself indefinitely

19 **In Vitro Fertilization:** a technique that unites the egg and sperm in a laboratory dish
20 instead of inside the female body

21 **Block Grant:** a grant from the central government that a local authority can allocate
22 to a wide range of services

23 **Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell:** an adult stem cell that has been reprogrammed
24 back into an embryonic state

25 **Section 2: Provisions**

26 § 99-p. Empire state stem cell trust fund.

- 27 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and
28 the commissioner of taxation and finance a special revenue fund to be known
29 as the "empire state stem cell trust fund" within which is a specialized
30 committee known as the "embryonic stem cell research committee" that
31 utilizes in vitro fertilization.
- 32 2. The fund shall consist of all monies appropriated for its purpose, all monies
33 required by this section or any other provisions of law to be paid into or
34 credited to such fund. Among this, 15% of the funding must be allocated
35 towards the "embryonic stem cell research committee" annually for
36 specialized study, as well as an additional 5% derived from the "preventative
37 health and health services" federal block grant. Nothing contained herein
38 shall prevent the department of health from receiving grants, gifts or



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- 39 requests for the purposes of the fund as defined in this section and
40 depositing them into the fund according to law.
- 41 3. Monies of the fund when allocated shall be available for administrative costs
42 of the empire state stem cell board established pursuant to title 5-A of article
43 two of the public health law administered by the commissioner of health and
44 for funding stem cell research.
- 45 4. Money shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the state
46 comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner of
47 health.

48

49 **Justification**

50 As ascertained by the Mayo Clinic, an academic medical center based in Minnesota
51 that is regarded as one of leading experts in regenerative medicines, the
52 multifaceted capabilities of embryonic stem cell therapy present themselves as the
53 next chapter in organ transplantation. Already they have proven themselves
54 effective with repairing scar tissue, replacing neurons, and combatting numerous
55 types of cancer. As a result, they have received international interest, with research
56 being conducted in Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Greece, Britain, Denmark, Japan,
57 India, Iran, Israel, South Korea, Australia, China, and the Netherlands. By mirroring
58 this and the policies already in place in certain states such as New Jersey and
59 California, New York enables itself to better combat the myriad of health concerns
60 its occupants face, being theoretically capable of obtaining cells of all lineages.
61 Furthermore, by placing the "Embryonic Stem Cell Research Committee" beneath
62 government control, New York is able to alleviate concerns that have arisen
63 regarding the validity of private, stem cell therapy clinics ("Transplant Center" Mayo
64 Clinic, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 22 Sept. 2018).

65

66 **Fiscal Implications**

67 As all funds shall be allocated from a portion of an existing government fund, there
68 will be no additional fiscal implications upon the taxpayer. In fact, it can even be
69 argued that New York is financially benefiting from the specification of researching
70 embryonic stem cells as they do not require the costly transition that the usage of
71 induced pluripotent stem cells entails.

72

73 **Effective Date**

74 This proposal shall be effective no later than April 1st, 2019.