

BY adding to

~~Article Health General~~

~~Section 20 1101 through 20 1112, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle  
“Subtitle 11. Stem Cell Research”~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article 83A – Business and Economic Development

Section 1-101(a), (b), and (d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 83A – Business and Economic Development

Section 5-2B-01 through 5-2B-13, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle  
“Subtitle 2B. Maryland Stem Cell Research Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, An estimated 128,000,000 Americans suffer from the crippling physical, economic, and psychological burdens of chronic, degenerative, and acute diseases, including Alzheimer’s disease, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, spinal cord injuries, macular degeneration, ALS, multiple sclerosis, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, The costs of treatment and lost productivity of chronic, degenerative, and acute diseases in the United States constitute hundreds of billions of dollars every year, and estimates of the economic costs of these diseases do not account for the extreme human loss and suffering associated with these conditions; and

WHEREAS, Stem cell research offers immense promise for developing new medical therapies and a better understanding of these debilitating diseases and could lead to unprecedented treatments and potential cures for Alzheimer’s disease, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, cancer, and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, Approximately half of Maryland’s families have a family member who has or will suffer from a serious, often critical or terminal, medical condition that could potentially be treated or cured with medical therapies derived from stem cell research; and

WHEREAS, Maryland’s current health care system may not be able to meet the needs of these individuals in the future unless medical care can focus on early diagnosis, cure, and prevention rather than palliation of late-stage effects of the disease; and