

WHEREAS, The United States and the State of Maryland have historically fostered open scientific inquiry and technological innovation, and this environment, coupled with the commitment of public and private resources, has made the United States the preeminent world leader in biomedicine and biotechnology; and

WHEREAS, Maryland ranks as the fourth-largest sector for biotechnology companies in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The biotechnology industry is a key component of the State's economy that provides employment in over 300 companies, many of which engage in some form of stem cell research; and

WHEREAS, The University of Maryland, Baltimore and The Johns Hopkins University are involved in stem cell research, with projects representing a combined total of approximately \$10,000,000 in public and private funding; and

WHEREAS, The State's favorable research climate would be significantly diminished by limitations imposed on stem cell research; and

WHEREAS, Stem cell research, including the use of embryonic stem cells for medical research, raises significant ethical and policy concerns that must be carefully considered; and

WHEREAS, Public policy on stem cell research must balance ethical and medical considerations and must be based on an understanding of the science associated with stem cell research while grounded on a thorough consideration of the ethical concerns; and

WHEREAS, Stem cell research must be carefully crafted to ensure that researchers have the tools necessary to fulfill the promise of stem cell research; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~Article — Health — General~~

~~SUBTITLE 11. STEM CELL RESEARCH.~~

**Article 83A – Business and Economic Development**

1-101.

- (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Department” means the Department of Business and Economic Development.
- (d) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Business and Economic Development.