

HB 1275 – No Stem Cells Derived from Aborted Fetuses

Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[HB 1275](#) recognizes the potential of stem cell therapies for advancing medical treatments and sets standards of ethics for use. Consent is required by adult patients before receiving stem cell therapy, alongside a notice for specific treatments not yet approved by the FDA. Additionally, stem cell therapies to advance medical treatments are not allowed to be derived from aborted fetuses.

Criteria	Variables			
Impact Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders & opinions.	Negative		Positive	
	Mixed Wider STEM cell use positively impacts the population. Potential beneficiaries include those with leukemia and lymphoma, alongside other conditions. The use of stem cells derived from human fetal tissue (HFT) from terminated pregnancies has remained controversial. Many science and research organizations support the use of human fetal tissue research, including the International Society for Stem Cell Research and the NIH; however, the HHS barred funding for human fetal tissue research from elective abortions in 2026.			
Reach Does it reach its target audience?	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	The broader consent and support for stem cell therapy would impact a larger portion of the population , including those with cancer and blood related diseases, while being studied for other uses. Fetus restriction portion: impacts a narrow segment. The fetus restriction would largely impact scientific research organizations and patients with diseases that require stem cell therapy advancements, such as those with HIV/AIDS and other neurodegenerative diseases.			
Scientific Merit Does it utilize scientific research accurately?	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.	
	Wider support: Yes , STEM cell therapies are effective. Stem cell transplants have been common for decades in cancer and blood-related disease treatment, and researchers continue to find new ways to use stem cells to treat other conditions. HFT restriction: No . If used, stem cells from aborted fetal tissue are used primarily for research and less often in treatment or therapy. HFTs are argued to be essential for biomedical research , especially because of their ability to adapt to new environments better than adult tissue. Vaccines and treatment for diseases , such as diabetes and HIV/AIDS, have been made possible by research			

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	employing HFT. Although alternatives such as organoids and tissue chips are alternatives that exist and are less controversial, they do not possess all the qualities that HFTs do.			
Financial Feasibility Is it financially feasible? or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	2 - Slight	3 - No financial burden
	Fetal tissue is not allowed to be sold for profit, but some companies provide these tissues to research organizations at the cost of shipping and processing (Grady and St. Fleur, 2015). Stem cells from other sources would continue to be available for sale.			
Political Feasibility Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	1 – Split along party lines	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	This bill has bipartisan support, with four Republicans and one Democrat.			
Measurable Metrics? We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	2 - most data / somewhat accessible	3 - complete transparency
	A metric to measure this bill would be to investigate whether scientists are able to carry on their research to a similar degree without using HFT; additionally, the efficacy of non-HFT stem cell therapy should be measured.			