



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 171 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: June 14, 2011

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Thompson and Johnson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: To prohibit human cloning, the transfer of a nonhuman embryo into a human womb, and the transfer of a human embryo into a nonhuman womb

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction could experience an increase in incarceration costs if violations of the bill's prohibitions are prosecuted. The number of individuals who will be sentenced is expected to be few; thus, costs should be minimal.
- The state could experience a gain in revenue through the collection of state court costs by local court systems. Any gain is expected to be negligible since the number of violations will likely be few.
- If any public institutions of higher education currently receive any research grants that could be impacted by any of the prohibitions in the bill, grant moneys might be forfeited.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- County criminal justice systems could experience an increase in costs related to investigations and prosecutions of the bill's prohibitions. It is expected that the number of violations would be few in number. Thus, costs associated with these investigations and prosecutions would be minimal. The bill does allow for a pecuniary gain-based fine of not less than \$1 million and not more than an amount equal to two times the amount of the gross pecuniary gain (if that amount is more than \$1 million). However, it is difficult to predict if and when a county would be able to collect this fine.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill prohibits a person or governmental entity from knowingly doing any of the following: (1) performing or attempting to perform human cloning, (2) participating in the performance of human cloning, and (3) sending or receiving a human embryo that is produced by human cloning. Additionally, the bill prohibits the following: (1) creating or attempting to create a human-animal hybrid, (2) transferring or attempting to transfer a human embryo into a nonhuman womb, (3) transferring or attempting to transfer a nonhuman embryo into a human womb, and (4) transporting or receiving for any purpose a human-animal hybrid. The bill specifies that it does not prohibit research involving the use of transgenic animal models containing human genes or xenotransplantation of human organs, tissues, or cells into recipient animals other than animal embryos.

Potential fiscal impact for the state

Violations of the above provisions are subject to a criminal penalty that generally consists of a term of imprisonment not to exceed five years. If violations occur, it is possible that individuals could be sentenced to state prison, which would increase costs for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. However, the increase would likely be minimal since the number of violations would likely be few in number. It is possible that the state could experience a gain in revenue through locally collected state court costs. However, revenue would be negligible since the number of violations is expected to be few.

If any public institutions of higher education currently receive any research grants that are related to any prohibitions in the bill, grant moneys might be forfeit as a result of the bill.

Potential fiscal impact for local governments

As a result of the prohibitions listed above, county criminal justice systems could experience an increase in costs related to investigations and subsequent prosecutions. It is expected that the number of violations would be few in number. Thus, costs associated with these prohibitions would be minimal. If an offender derives pecuniary gain, the offender could be subject to a fine of not less than \$1 million and not more than an amount equal to two times the amount of the gross pecuniary gain (if that amount is more than \$1 million). However, it is difficult to predict if and when a county would be able to collect this pecuniary gain-based fine.