



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 31 Printer's No. 12

Prime Sponsor: Scavello
Committee: Health and Human Services

SYNOPSIS:

Establishes the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program and allocates not less than \$1,000,000 from the Tobacco Settlement Fund (the "Fund") for appropriate research.

SUMMARY:

Amends the Tobacco Settlement Act as follows:

Section 903.1

Adds Section 903.1 which establishes within the Department of Health ("DOH") the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (the "Research Program"). Appropriations from the Fund will be used for research projects regarding spinal cord injuries and related infrastructure.

This section also establishes the Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee (the "Committee") within DOH. The Committee will consist of nine members appointed by the Secretary of DOH. Membership on the Committee shall consist of:

- A representative of a Pennsylvania Medical college or university
- Two neurosurgeons
- Two physicians who specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation
- A physician specializing in spinal cord injuries
- An individual with a spinal cord injury
- A family member of a person with a spinal cord injury
- A veteran with a spinal cord injury

Members of the Committee will not be paid for their service but members who are not state government employees shall receive reasonable expenses.

Section 904

Section 904 is amended to provide that the Committee together with the DOH and the Health Research Advisory Committee shall establish the research priorities for Pennsylvania. The section also provides certain guidelines for the establishment of research priorities.

Section 906

Section 906 currently provides that 15% of the funds allocated pursuant to section 906 for research "shall be used to fund other research projects by eligible applicants." Section 906 changes this

allocation to provide that of this 15%, not less than \$1,000,000 shall be used for spinal cord injury research under new Section 909.1, and the balance of the 15% shall be used for other research projects by eligible participants.

Section 909.1

Adds Section 909.1 to provide that an institution that conducts research on spinal cord injuries shall be eligible to receive a grant from the \$1,000,000 allocated for spinal cord research in Section 906.

Section 909.1 (b) outlines acceptable types of spinal cord research that may receive funding.

Section 909.1 (c) provides that the DOH may solicit funds to supplement grants awarded for spinal cord research under Section 906.

Effective Date: 60 days

BILL HISTORY:

Referred to HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Jan. 12, 2017

Prepared by: Cortez 6/8/2017