

The Trust Fund

The Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund was established in 2004 for the purpose of funding medical cure research for spinal cord injuries (H4738, Chapter 276). The fund consists of monies paid to the Commonwealth on a surcharge assessed against persons who seek reinstatement of their license to operate a motor vehicle after their license has been suspended for three speeding convictions in a one year period, or five or more moving violations or surchargeable offences within a three year period. * One half of the funds went to the General Fund.

The legislation also called for the formation of an Advisory Board which included Dr. Eric Ruby, Dr. William Sniger, and David Estrada, former Director of the Greater Boston Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association. With Dr. Sniger's death, Dr. Ron Riesenburger replaced him on the Advisory Board.

Over the years competitive grants have been awarded to Jeffrey Macklis, M.D., P. Hst, of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Ted Teng, Ph.D., M.S., M.D., of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Spaulding, Zhigang He, Ph.D. of Children's Hospital, Andrew Reisner, M.D. of MGH, and Christopher Gabel, Ph.D. of Boston University School of Medicine.

Funding for the Trust Fund:

FY 06	\$119,675	FY 10	\$107, 225*	FY 14	\$28,575
FY 07	\$133,300	FY 11	\$90,825	FY 15	\$23,600***
FY 08	\$132,100	FY 12	\$40,425	FY 16	\$23,375****
FY 09	\$119,825	FY 13	\$36,625**	FY 17	\$44,250

FY 18	\$741, 440	FY 22	\$865,153
FY 19	\$863,005	FY 23	\$817, 685
FY 20	\$970,885		
FY 21	\$1,230,415		

* In 2010 the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) changed the law for loss of license and reinstatement causing a decrease in funding for both the SCI Fund and the General Fund.

**In 2013-2014 The Senate agreed to correct the Scriviner's error, but the Bill never left the Third reading Committee for a vote in the House.

*** On July 1, 2015, S-627 was heard at the Joint Committee on Health Care Finance. The Committee agreed to the revision, but would not double the fee to recoup the losses. The Bill, S-1972, went to the Rules Committee.

****On November 6, 2015, Governor Charles Baker signed S-2019, the Thomas Kennedy SCI Research to a Cure Trust Fund Bill. 100% of funds go to the Trust. It corrects the Scriviner's error of 2010.