Scientific organizations attack Senate's DNA bill
By Mark James
Cries of undue restriction of scientific research and complaints about unneeded limits on the public health powers of local governments have prompted new legislation in Congress that would regulate recombinant DNA research.

This research, in which the genes of different species ranging from lower animals to man are linked in those of bacteria, has aroused controversy for over a year. Opponents of the research claim that new and possibly dangerous organisms might be created by this process. Experimenters maintain that there is little— if any — hazardous involved and that the benefits to understanding the function of genes would be large, possibly including insights into cancer.

Two bills, one in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate, have been put forward. Both would create federal regulations which would supersede local rules unless the locality was granted an exemption under complex rules that differ between the two bills.

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