

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE DRH45084-SW-13 (4/22)**

Short Title: Study Comp. for Eugenic Sterilization. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Womble.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY  
3 WAYS TO COMPENSATE AND COUNSEL PERSONS WHO WERE  
4 STERILIZED THROUGH THE STATE'S EUGENIC STERILIZATION  
5 PROGRAM.

6       Whereas, during the early part of the 20th century, social reformers advocated  
7 eugenic sterilization as a solution to problems such as mental retardation and mental  
8 illness; and

9       Whereas, in 1907, Indiana was the first state to pass a eugenic sterilization  
10 program, and eventually more than 30 states passed these laws, with North Carolina  
11 following in 1929; and

12       Whereas, from 1933 to 1974, North Carolina's Eugenics Board reviewed  
13 petitions for sterilizations, and sterilizations were ordered in more than 90% of the cases  
14 before the Board; and

15       Whereas, researchers estimate that more than 7,600 people were sterilized in  
16 North Carolina between 1929 and 1974, ranking North Carolina third among the states  
17 operating eugenic sterilization programs; and

18       Whereas, while most states sharply curtailed their sterilization programs after  
19 World War II, nearly four-fifths of sterilizations in North Carolina were performed after  
20 1945, and by the late 1960s, more than 60% of those persons sterilized in the State were  
21 black and 99% were female; and

22       Whereas, the governors of Virginia, Oregon, South Carolina, and North  
23 Carolina have issued apologies for these forced sterilizations, and Governor Easley  
24 established a committee to investigate the eugenic sterilization program and consider  
25 compensation or counseling services for these persons; and

26       Whereas, the General Assembly finds that persons sterilized as a result of the  
27 State's eugenic sterilization program should be compensated; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2       **SECTION 1.** The Legislative Research Commission shall study ways that  
3 persons who were sterilized through the State's eugenic sterilization program shall be  
4 compensated and counseled to deal with that experience.

5       **SECTION 2.** The Legislative Research Commission shall report the results  
6 of its study, including any recommended legislation, to the 2004 Regular Session of the  
7 2003 General Assembly on or before its convening.

8       **SECTION 3.** It is the goal of the General Assembly after reviewing the  
9 results of the Commission's study to create and fund a program during the 2004-2005  
10 fiscal year to compensate, in some form, and counsel persons who were sterilized  
11 through the State's eugenic sterilization program.

12       **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General  
13 Assembly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2003-2004 fiscal  
14 year to fund the study required in this act.

15       **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.