

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJ75160-LN-28 (2/11)

Sponsors: Senator Forrester.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
2 COMMISSION TO STUDY WAYS OF HELPING TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC
3 ON THE RISKS OF OVARIAN CANCER AND THE BENEFITS AND COSTS
4 OF PREVENTION.

5 Whereas, in 2002, an estimated 23,300 women in the United States were
6 diagnosed with ovarian cancer and about 13,900 have died, and

7 Whereas, a woman's chances of having ovarian cancer are increased if she
8 has a strong family history, meaning she has one or more close relatives who have been
9 diagnosed with ovarian cancer; and

10 Whereas, ovarian cancer is most treatable when diagnosed early; however, it
11 is difficult to detect early. Only 26 percent of all cases are diagnosed at the earliest
12 stage. About 60 percent of all cases are not diagnosed until the cancer has spread
13 beyond the abdominal cavity, when the five-year relative survival rate is only about 30
14 percent; and

15 Whereas, at this time, no reliable screening tools are available to detect
16 ovarian cancer in its earliest stages. However, tests such as CA 125 currently are being
17 evaluated as a screening tool. CA 125, a tumor marker, can detect high elevations of
18 substances in the blood that result from a tumor; and

19 Whereas, State lawmakers can address ovarian cancer by supporting and
20 funding awareness activities, screening and diagnosis research, and treatment programs;
21 and

22 Whereas, approximately 12 states have passed laws or resolutions to promote
23 awareness, education, and the benefits of breast feeding, funding of support groups, or
24 offering treatment through a state program, or mandated insurance coverage for
25 screening or monitoring tests for ovarian cancer; Now, therefore,

26 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

27 **SECTION 1.** The Legislative Research Commission may study the
28 incidences and risks of ovarian cancer and recommend ways of educating the public on

1 the risks and the benefits and costs of prevention. The study may include a review of
2 what other states are doing to promote early detection and prevention of ovarian cancer,
3 and recommendations on funding of awareness activities, screening and diagnosis
4 research, and treatment programs.

5 **SECTION 2.** The Legislative Research Commission may make an interim
6 report to the 2004 Regular Session of the 2003 General Assembly and shall make its
7 final report to the 2005 General Assembly upon its convening.

8 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.