

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

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 636**

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Sponsors: Senators Forrester; Allran, Bingham, Foxx, Pittenger, Sloan, and Stevens.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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April 1, 2003

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  
29 the risks and the benefits and costs of prevention. The study may include a review of  
30 what other states are doing to promote early detection and prevention of ovarian cancer,

1 and recommendations on funding of awareness activities, screening and diagnosis  
2 research, and treatment programs.

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

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