

SENATE, No. 1711

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 11, 2010

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Mercer)

Senator DIANE B. ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Assemblyman TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Beck, Greenstein, Madden, Ruiz and Assemblywoman Spencer

SYNOPSIS

Establishes ovarian cancer public awareness campaign in DHSS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2011)

1 AN ACT establishing an ovarian cancer public awareness campaign
2 and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other cancer of
9 the female reproductive system; it ranks fourth as a cause of cancer
10 deaths among women in the United States;

11 b. In the United States, from 1993 to 1997, the rate of new
12 cases of ovarian cancer was 14.6 and the rate of mortality from
13 ovarian cancer was 7.3 for every 100,000 women; in New Jersey,
14 during the same period, the rate of new cases of ovarian cancer was
15 16.1 and the rate of mortality was 8.6 for every 100,000 women;

16 c. When ovarian cancer is found and treated in its earliest
17 stages, the five-year survival rate is 95%; however, most women
18 who suffer from ovarian cancer are not diagnosed until the later
19 stages of the cancer when the disease has spread and the five-year
20 survival rate decreases to 30%;

21 d. More than half of the deaths from ovarian cancer occur in
22 women between the ages of 55 and 74 years of age and
23 approximately one quarter of ovarian cancer deaths occur in women
24 between 35 and 54 years of age;

25 e. Because early detection and treatment often mean the
26 difference between life and death, it is important to increase
27 awareness of the factors that put certain women at a higher risk for
28 the disease: increased age; having a personal history of breast
29 cancer or a family history of breast, ovarian, uterine, colon or other
30 gastrointestinal cancers; and bearing no children;

31 f. The symptoms of ovarian cancer include: general abdominal
32 discomfort or pain, such as gas, indigestion, pressure, swelling,
33 bloating or cramps; nausea, diarrhea, constipation or frequent
34 urination; loss of appetite; feeling of fullness after a light meal;
35 weight gain or loss with no known reason; and abnormal bleeding
36 from the vagina;

37 g. Because these symptoms are vague and non-specific, women
38 and their physicians often attribute them to more common
39 conditions so that by the time the cancer is diagnosed the tumor has
40 often spread beyond the ovaries; and

41 h. Although development of a screening test to detect ovarian
42 cancer remains a very active area of research, currently there is no
43 definitive prevention strategy, but having regular pelvic
44 examinations may decrease the overall risk of dying from ovarian
45 cancer.

46

47 2. a. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall
48 establish a public awareness campaign to inform the general public

1 about the clinical significance of ovarian cancer and its public
2 health implications. The campaign shall include, at a minimum,
3 risk factors, symptoms, the need for early detection and methods of
4 treatment.

5 b. The commissioner shall, at a minimum:

6 (1) provide for the development of printed educational materials
7 and public service announcements in English and Spanish; and

8 (2) disseminate information for distribution to the public,
9 through a variety of entities, including, but not limited to, local
10 health agencies and clinics, physicians, health care facilities, county
11 offices on aging, pharmacies, libraries, senior citizen centers, other
12 community-based outreach programs and organizations, and the
13 Department of Health and Senior Services' official website.

14

15 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

16

17

18

STATEMENT

19

20 This bill establishes an ovarian cancer public awareness
21 campaign in the Department of Health and Senior Services.

22 Under the provisions of the bill, the Commissioner of Health and
23 Senior Services is required to establish the public awareness
24 campaign to inform the general public about the clinical
25 significance of ovarian cancer and its public health implications.
26 The campaign would include risk factors, symptoms, the need for
27 early detection and methods of treatment.

28 To carry out the public awareness campaign, the commissioner
29 would, at a minimum:

30 -- provide for the development of printed educational materials
31 and public service announcements in English and Spanish; and

32 -- disseminate information for distribution to the public, through
33 a variety of entities, including, but not limited to, local health
34 agencies and clinics, physicians, health care facilities, county
35 offices on aging, pharmacies, libraries, senior citizen centers, other
36 community-based outreach programs and organizations and the
37 department's official website.