

ASSEMBLY, No. 722

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman R. SMITH

1 AN ACT establishing a Lupus Erythematosus registry in the  
2 Department of Health and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: there are approximately  
9 20,000 to 30,000 people in New Jersey who suffer from Lupus  
10 Erythematosus, commonly known as "lupus"; lupus is a mysterious and  
11 complex disease causing certain women, particularly between the ages  
12 of 13 and 40, to suffer from an overactive immune system that can  
13 attack the vital organs or any other part of the body and which  
14 manifests itself in a variety of symptoms including severe exhaustion,  
15 body aches and facial rashes; the disease is frequently misdiagnosed  
16 usually because of the lack of knowledge about lupus on the part of  
17 medical professionals; a recent coordination of medical staff between  
18 the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Robert Wood  
19 Johnson University Hospital to improve current knowledge about the  
20 disease and establish the Lupus Treatment and Research Center at that  
21 hospital has taken place; to further expand knowledge about, and to  
22 help in the treatment of lupus victims it is necessary to compile  
23 information about lupus on a Statewide basis; and, a lupus registry  
24 would provide a needed source of information to enable analysis of  
25 this problem and plan for and provide treatment services to lupus  
26 victims.

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28 2. a. A physician shall, after diagnosing that a person has Lupus  
29 Erythematosus, report this diagnosis to the Department of Health in  
30 a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Health.

31 b. The report shall be in writing and shall include the name and  
32 address of the person submitting the report, the name, age and address  
33 of the person diagnosed as having Lupus Erythematosus and other  
34 pertinent information as may be required by the Commissioner of  
35 Health.



1 divulged or made public so as to disclose the identity of any person to  
2 whom they relate; and to that end, the reports shall not be included  
3 under materials available to public inspection pursuant to P.L.1963,  
4 c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.).

5 Finally, no individual or organization providing information to the  
6 Department of Health in accordance with this act shall be deemed to  
7 be, or held liable for, divulging confidential information and nothing  
8 in this act shall be construed to compel an individual to submit to  
9 medical or health examination or supervision by the Department of  
10 Health.

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15 Establishes a Lupus Erythematosus registry in the Department of  
16 Health.