

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 1166

Short Title: Establish Cancer Control Study.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Daniel; and Seymour.

Referred to: Appropriations.

June 3, 1992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A CANCER CONTROL STUDY COMMISSION AND TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDS.**

Whereas, a total of 12,969 people died in 1989 and 13,198 people died in 1990 from cancer in North Carolina; and

Whereas, 14,000 people are predicted to die in 1992 from cancer in North Carolina; and

Whereas, morbidity and disability from cancer are estimated to be responsible for 10% of the total cost of disease in North Carolina and for lost productivity among the work force, in addition to the personal loss, grief, and financial disruption experienced by families; and

Whereas, 34% of annual cancer deaths in North Carolina are premature adult deaths occurring to persons between the ages of 20 and 64, equivalent to approximately 4,460 deaths per year or 12 deaths per day; and

Whereas, the National Cancer Institute has estimated that the mortality rate from cancer can be reduced by 50% through prevention, early detection, and prompt, appropriate treatment and follow-up; and

Whereas, a statewide Cancer Control Program has been legislatively established to provide cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and education, but unfortunately the resources available to the Program are limited relative to the needs for cancer control efforts, and the Program has been forced to cease authorizing care by physicians and hospitals before the end of the fiscal year in each of the last three years due to depletion of funds; and

1 Whereas, it is estimated that 900,000 people in North Carolina have no health
2 insurance on any day; and

3 Whereas, various cancer control activities currently exist in several State
4 departments and institutions and in many non-State institutions in North Carolina; and

5 Whereas, the prevention and treatment of cancer require planned,
6 coordinated, well-funded and systematically implemented public and professional
7 educational efforts, state of the art information, and medical care availability to all
8 North Carolina residents; and

9 Whereas, the North Carolina Public Health System is responsible for public
10 health, but lacks the financial resources and the coordinating responsibilities to
11 undertake a comprehensive cancer control effort; and

12 Whereas, a comprehensive, well-financed, coordinated cancer control effort
13 can improve the health status of North Carolinians and can provide affordable economic
14 and social return to the State; Now, therefore,

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 Section 1. The Cancer Control Study Commission is created. The
17 Commission shall consist of 20 members who shall be appointed as follows:

18 (1) Ten members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as
19 follows:

- 20 a. Five members of the Senate;
- 21 b. One person from each of the three North Carolina
22 Comprehensive Cancer Centers;
- 23 c. A member of the North Carolina Nurses Association; and
- 24 d. The State Health Director, or his designee; and

25 (2) Ten members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives as follows:

- 27 a. Five members of the House of Representatives;
- 28 b. A member of the Cancer Committee of the North Carolina
29 Medical Society;
- 30 c. A member of the Old North State Medical Society;
- 31 d. A volunteer of the American Cancer Society, North Carolina
32 Division, Inc.;
- 33 e. A representative of the North Carolina Hospital Association;
34 and
- 35 f. A member of the Local Health Directors' Association.

36 All initial appointments shall be made within 30 days following adjournment
37 of the 1992 Regular Session of the 1991 General Assembly.

38 Sec. 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one Senator
39 as cochair and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one
40 Representative as cochair. The cochairs shall call the first meeting and preside at
41 alternate meetings.

42 Sec. 3. The Commission shall study cancer control activities and services in
43 North Carolina and make recommendations that will assure coordinated and adequately
44 financed statewide cancer control efforts.

1 Sec. 4. The Commission shall submit a final report of its findings and
2 recommendations to the General Assembly by filing the report with the President Pro
3 Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than
4 March 31, 1993. Upon filing its final report, the Commission shall terminate.

5 Sec. 5. The Commission, while in the discharge of official duties, may
6 exercise all the powers provided for under the provisions of G.S. 120-19, and G.S. 120-
7 19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Commission may meet at any time upon the joint call
8 of the cochairs. The Commission may meet in the Legislative Building or the
9 Legislative Office Building.

10 Sec. 6. Members of the Commission shall receive subsistence and travel
11 expenses at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, and 138-6, as applicable.

12 Sec. 7. The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant
13 services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02, and may purchase or contract for the materials
14 and services it needs. The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative
15 Administrative Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist in the work of the
16 Commission. The House of Representatives' and the Senate's Supervisor of Clerks shall
17 assign clerical staff to the Commission, upon the direction of the Legislative Services
18 Commission. The expenses relating to clerical employees shall be borne by the
19 Commission. With the consent of the Secretary of the Department of Environment,
20 Health, and Natural Resources, staff employed by the Department or any of its divisions
21 may be assigned permanently or temporarily to assist the Commission or its staff.

22 Sec. 8. When a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Commission the
23 vacancy shall be filled by the same appointing officer who made the initial appointment.

24 Sec. 9. All State departments and agencies and local governments and their
25 subdivisions shall furnish the Commission with any information in their possession or
26 available to them.

27 Sec. 10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
28 Assembly the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the 1992-93 fiscal year for the
29 expenses of the Commission.

30 Sec. 11. This act becomes effective July 1, 1992.