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LAW/RWH

SENATE, No. 2363

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 24, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator SEAN T. KEAN

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator ANDREW R. CIESLA

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman MARY PAT ANGELINI

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Codey, Beck, Sarlo, Assemblyman Polistina, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblyman Diegnan, Assemblywomen Riley and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Permanently designates February "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2009)

1 AN ACT permanently designating the month of February as
2 "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in New Jersey.

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. Among women in the United States, ovarian cancer is the fifth
9 leading cause of cancer death and the eighth most common type of
10 cancer; ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other
11 gynecologic cancer in the United States, yet it accounts for about
12 3% of all cancers in the United States;

13 b. According to the U.S. Cancer Statistics: 2004 Incidence and
14 Mortality report, 20,095 women in the United States learned they
15 had ovarian cancer in 2004, and 14,716 died from the disease;

16 c. For 2004, the rate in the United States of new cases of ovarian
17 cancer was 12.5 and the mortality rate for this type of cancer was
18 8.8 for every 100,000 women; in New Jersey, during the same year,
19 the rate of new cases of ovarian cancer was 13.3 and the mortality
20 rate was 8.6 for every 100,000 women;

21 d. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that it
22 is estimated that more than \$2.2 billion is spent annually on the
23 treatment of ovarian cancer in the United States;

24 e. Although all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, older
25 women are more likely to get the disease; about 90% of women
26 who get the disease are 40 years of age or older, with most being 55
27 years of age or older; additionally, more than half the deaths from
28 ovarian cancer occur in women between the ages of 55 and 74 and
29 approximately one quarter of ovarian cancer deaths occur in women
30 between 35 and 54 years of age;

31 f. When ovarian cancer is found and treated in its earliest stages,
32 the five-year survival rate is 95%; however, most women who
33 suffer from ovarian cancer are not diagnosed until the later stages of
34 the cancer when the disease has spread, and the five-year survival
35 rate for these women is 30%;

36 g. Early detection and treatment often mean the difference
37 between life and death, so it is important to increase awareness of
38 the factors that put certain women at a higher risk for the disease:
39 increased age, having a personal history of breast cancer or a family
40 history of breast, ovarian, uterine, colon or other gastrointestinal
41 cancers, and bearing no children;

42 h. Cancer experts have advised that there is a set of health
43 problems, including general abdominal discomfort or pain (gas,
44 indigestion, pressure, bloating or cramps), nausea, diarrhea,
45 constipation, frequent urination, loss of appetite, difficulty eating,
46 feeling full after a meal, unexplained weight gain or weight loss,
47 and abdominal bleeding from the vagina, that may be early
48 symptoms of ovarian cancer;

1 i. Because these symptoms are vague and non-specific, women
2 and their physicians often attribute them to more common
3 conditions; by the time the cancer is diagnosed the tumor has often
4 spread beyond the ovaries, making the disease one of the deadliest
5 forms of cancer;

6 j. Although the development of a screening test to detect ovarian
7 cancer remains a very active area of research, currently there are no
8 definitive prevention strategies to help combat the disease;
9 consequently, having regular pelvic examinations and increasing
10 public awareness of the risk factors and health problems that might
11 indicate the onset of ovarian cancer may be the only ways to
12 decrease a woman's overall risk of dying from this type of cancer;
13 and

14 k. It is proper and fitting for the State of New Jersey to
15 permanently designate the month of February as "Ovarian Cancer
16 Awareness Month."
17

18 2. The month of February is permanently designated as "Ovarian
19 Cancer Awareness Month" in New Jersey to promote awareness
20 among the general public and the health care community of the
21 symptoms of ovarian cancer, the importance of early detection, and
22 the risk factors associated with developing ovarian cancer.
23

24 3. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation and call
25 upon public officials, private organizations, the health care
26 community, and all citizens of the State of New Jersey to observe
27 "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" with appropriate events and
28 activities.
29

30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
31

32

33

34 SPONSORS STATEMENT

35

36 This bill permanently designates the month of February as
37 "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in New Jersey to promote
38 awareness among the general public and the health care community
39 of the symptoms of ovarian cancer, the importance of early
40 detection, and the risk factors associated with developing ovarian
41 cancer.

42 The bill directs the Governor to annually issue a proclamation
43 and call upon public officials, private organizations, the health care
44 community, and all citizens of the State to observe "Ovarian Cancer
Awareness Month" with appropriate events and activities.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2363

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 15, 2008

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2363.

This bill permanently designates the month of February as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in New Jersey to promote awareness among the general public and the health care community of the symptoms of ovarian cancer, the importance of early detection, and the risk factors associated with developing ovarian cancer.

The bill directs the Governor to annually issue a proclamation and call upon public officials, private organizations, the health care community, and all citizens of the State to observe "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" with appropriate events and activities.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3382 (Angelini/Greenstein/Vainieri Huttle), which is pending before the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3382

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 27, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MARY PAT ANGELINI

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

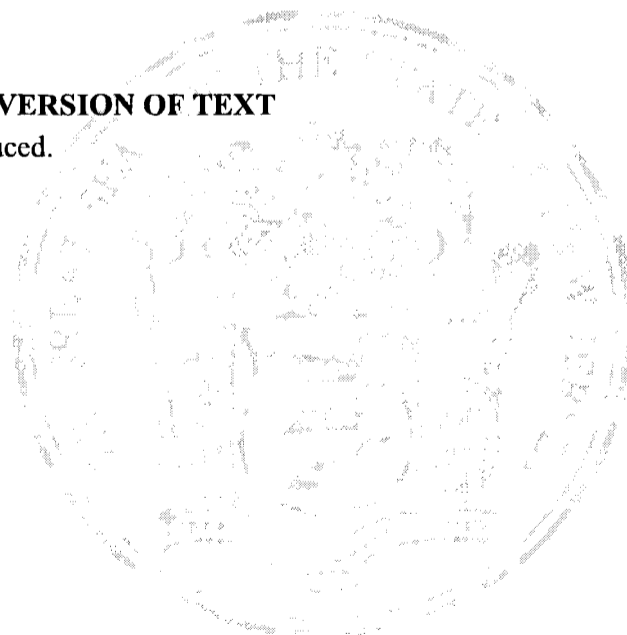
**Assemblyman Polistina, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblyman Diegnan,
Assemblywomen Riley and Pou**

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ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3382

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 15, 2009

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3382.

This bill permanently designates the month of February as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in New Jersey to promote awareness among the general public and the health care community of the symptoms of ovarian cancer, the importance of early detection, and the risk factors associated with developing ovarian cancer.

The bill directs the Governor to annually issue a proclamation and call upon public officials, private organizations, the health care community, and all citizens of the State to observe "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" with appropriate events and activities.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2363 (S.Kean/Ciesla), which is pending before the Senate.