

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL DRS15186-MGa-88

Short Title: Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Murdock and Salvador (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO  
3 CONDUCT AND SUPPORT RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATE CURRENT  
4 INFORMATION REGARDING UTERINE FIBROIDS; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
5 FOR THESE PURPOSES.

6 Whereas, in the United States, an estimated 26,000,000 women between the ages of  
7 15 and 50 have uterine fibroids and screening studies indicate the prevalence of uterine fibroids  
8 in women may be much higher; and

9 Whereas, uterine fibroids may cause significant morbidity through their presence in  
10 the uterus and pelvic cavity, causing significant pelvic pain, iron-deficiency anemia, heavy  
11 bleeding, miscarriages, and infertility; and

12 Whereas, the pain, discomfort, stress, and other physical and emotional symptoms of  
13 living with fibroids may significantly interfere with a woman's quality of life, compromising her  
14 ability to function normally or work or care for her family, and may lead to more severe health  
15 and wellness issues; and

16 Whereas, the development of uterine fibroids is a common and significant health  
17 problem, affecting women, primarily of reproductive age, across all ages, racial backgrounds,  
18 and socioeconomic levels; and

19 Whereas, women who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups are more  
20 likely to develop uterine fibroids, with African American women having been shown to have  
21 more severe symptoms and to develop early-onset uterine fibroids that develop into larger  
22 tumors; and

23 Whereas, there is little to no data describing the overall patient experience with  
24 fibroids; quantifying the costs associated with treating fibroids; or identifying proven,  
25 evidence-based methods by which fibroids may be prevented; and

26 Whereas, according to the Evidence Report Summary on the Management of Uterine  
27 Fibroids, as compiled by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of the United States  
28 Department of Health and Human Services, there is a "remarkable lack of high-quality evidence  
29 supporting the effectiveness of most interventions for symptomatic fibroids"; and

30 Whereas, the presence of symptomatic uterine fibroids is the most common reason  
31 for hysterectomies, accounting for approximately one-third of hysterectomies, or 200,000  
32 procedures annually; and twenty-two percent (22%) of African American women and seven  
33 percent (7%) of Caucasian women have hysterectomies as a result of uterine fibroids; and

34 Whereas, lack of patient and provider awareness of less invasive alternatives to  
35 hysterectomies leads to an estimated 80,000 to 120,000 unnecessary hysterectomies annually;  
36 and



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1           Whereas, uterine fibroids are also the leading cause of hospitalization related to a  
2 gynecological disorder; and

3           Whereas, the personal and societal costs of uterine fibroids in the United States are  
4 significant and include costs related to surgery, hospital admissions, outpatient visits,  
5 medications, and lost working hours; Now, therefore,

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7           **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Uterine Fibroid  
8 Research and Education Act of 2023."

9           **SECTION 2.** Part 8 of Article 5 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended  
10 by adding a new section to read:

11 **"§ 130A-131.26. Uterine fibroid research and education.**

12           (a) The Department, in collaboration with the agencies, institutions, and organizations  
13 delineated in subsection (b) of this section, shall do the following:

14           (1) Establish, expand, intensify, and coordinate programs to conduct and support  
15 research regarding uterine fibroids, with special emphasis on women who are  
16 members of racial and ethnic minority groups who are known to be  
17 disproportionately affected by uterine fibroids.

18           (2) Collect data on items and services furnished to women receiving Medicaid  
19 and other State-funded healthcare services who have been diagnosed with  
20 uterine fibroids and uterine fibroids-related symptoms for the purpose of  
21 assessing the frequency at which such women are furnished such items and  
22 services.

23           (3) Develop, annually update, and disseminate to healthcare providers  
24 information on uterine fibroids for the purpose of ensuring that healthcare  
25 providers remain informed about the most current information on uterine  
26 fibroids. Such information shall include the elevated risk for women who are  
27 members of racial and ethnic minority groups to develop uterine fibroids and  
28 the range of available options for the treatment of symptomatic uterine  
29 fibroids, including non-hysterectomy drugs and devices approved under the  
30 federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301, et seq.

31           (4) Beginning April 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, report to the Joint  
32 Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on any  
33 research and education activities undertaken by the Department pursuant to  
34 this section.

35           (b) In fulfilling the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Department shall  
36 collaborate with representatives of the following:

37           (1) The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

38           (2) The Division of Public Health.

39           (3) The Division of Health Benefits.

40           (4) The Department of State Treasurer, State Health Plan Division.

41           (5) Colleges and universities located within the State that have conducted or are  
42 conducting research on uterine fibroids.

43           (6) The Old North State Medical Society.

44           (7) The North Carolina Medical Society.

45           (8) Any other organizations located within the State that the Department deems  
46 relevant to the study and collection of data on uterine fibroids."

47           **SECTION 3.** Effective July 1, 2023, there is appropriated to the Department of  
48 Health and Human Services the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in recurring  
49 funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in  
50 recurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to conduct the research and education activities  
51 required by Section 2 of this act.

1           **SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective October 1,  
2 2023.