

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1465

Short Title: Fibromyalgia Awareness Day. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Weiss, Luebke, Glazier, Blue (Primary Sponsors); Alexander, Bordsen, Carney, Coates, Cotham, Dickson, Dollar, England, Fisher, Goforth, Hall, Harrison, Holliman, Lewis, Lucas, Martin, McLawhorn, Parmon, Samuelson, Tarleton, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

April 16, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE MAY 12 OF EACH YEAR AS FIBROMYALGIA
2 AWARENESS DAY.
3

4 Whereas, fibromyalgia is a chronic pain syndrome characterized by
5 widespread musculoskeletal aches, pain, and stiffness, soft tissue tenderness, general
6 fatigue, and sleep disturbances. Neurological complaints such as numbness, tingling,
7 and burning are often present and add to the discomfort of the patient; and

8 Whereas, approximately 130,000 North Carolinians and 6 million Americans
9 suffer from fibromyalgia; and

10 Whereas, fibromyalgia is an invisible ailment and as such the normal physical
11 appearance of its victims makes many patients' family, friends, employers, and even
12 some uninformed physicians regard them as malingerers; and

13 Whereas, the lack of public awareness of fibromyalgia contributes to some
14 persons with its symptoms not seeking treatment, thus also contributing to depression
15 and prolonging severe discomfort; and

16 Whereas, in 1990, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) legitimized
17 fibromyalgia as a medical syndrome and established a widely accepted protocol for
18 diagnosing fibromyalgia. ACR's clinical criteria require that a patient have widespread
19 pain and at least 11 of 18 specific tender point sites in all four quadrants of the body
20 lasting at least three months in duration; and

21 Whereas, the Social Security Administration issued a ruling in 1999 that
22 fibromyalgia is a medically determinable impairment in the context of its disability
23 insurance program; and

24 Whereas, some unscrupulous health care practitioners have preyed on
25 fibromyalgia patients and their families by selling them unproven, worthless, and even
26 dangerous treatments often at exorbitant cost; and

1 Whereas, it is in the best interests of the citizens of this State to be made
2 aware of fibromyalgia syndrome in order to facilitate prompt diagnosis and treatment of
3 the syndrome; Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the
6 following new section to read:

7 **"§ 103-11. Fibromyalgia Awareness Day.**

8 The twelfth day of May of each year is designated as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day
9 in North Carolina."

10 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.