

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3212

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes a Women's Menstrual Health Screening Program and requirements to screen appropriate patients for endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing a Women’s Menstrual Health Screening  
2 Program and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. According to the United States Department of Health and  
9 Human Services’ Office on Women’s Health, endometriosis may  
10 affect more than 11 percent of American women between the ages  
11 of 15 and 44, which is approximately 6.5 million women in the  
12 United States alone;

13 b. According to the Mayo Clinic, endometriosis is an often  
14 painful disorder in which tissue similar to the tissue that normally  
15 lines the inside of a woman’s uterus, called the endometrium, grows  
16 outside the uterus;

17 c. In patients who have endometriosis, the endometrial-like  
18 tissue thickens, breaks down, and bleeds with each menstrual cycle.  
19 However, since this tissue has no way to exit the body, it becomes  
20 trapped;

21 d. When endometriosis impacts the ovaries, cysts called  
22 endometriomas may form. Surrounding tissue can become irritated,  
23 eventually developing scar tissue and adhesions that can cause  
24 pelvic tissues and organs to stick to each other;

25 e. The primary symptom of endometriosis is pelvic pain.  
26 While many women experience cramping during their menstrual  
27 periods, those patients with endometriosis typically describe  
28 menstrual pain that is much worse than typical, and this pain may  
29 increase over time;

30 f. Symptoms of endometriosis include: painful periods (called  
31 dysmenorrhea); pain with intercourse; pain with bowel movements  
32 or urination; excessive bleeding; infertility; fatigue; diarrhea;  
33 constipation; bloating; and nausea;

34 g. Ovarian cancer occurs at higher than expected rates in those  
35 who have endometriosis. Although rare, another type of cancer  
36 called endometriosis-associated adenocarcinoma can develop later  
37 in life in those who have had endometriosis;

38 h. According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
39 Prevention, polycystic ovary syndrome (“PCOS”) is one of the most  
40 common causes of female infertility, affecting 6 to 12 percent of  
41 women in the United States of reproductive age (as many as 5  
42 million women);

43 i. This life-long health condition continues far beyond the  
44 child-bearing years and involves other serious health complications;

45 j. Women with PCOS are often insulin resistant, which means  
46 that their bodies can make insulin but are unable to use it  
47 effectively. Insulin resistance increases a patient’s risk for Type 2  
48 diabetes;

1 k. PCOS patients also have higher levels of androgens,  
2 hormones which can stop eggs from being released and cause  
3 irregular periods, acne, thinning scalp hair, and excess hair growth  
4 on the face and body;

5 l. More than half of women with PCOS develop type 2  
6 diabetes by age 40. PCOS patients can also develop gestational  
7 diabetes, which is diabetes when pregnant which puts the pregnancy  
8 and baby at risk and can lead to type 2 diabetes later in life for both  
9 mother and child;

10 m. Women with PCOS are at higher risk of heart disease, and  
11 this risk increases with age. Those with PCOS can also experience:  
12 (1) high blood pressure, which can damage the heart, brain, and  
13 kidneys; (2) high LDL (“bad”) cholesterol and low HDL (“good”)  
14 cholesterol, which increases the risk for heart disease; (3) sleep  
15 apneaexternal icon, a disorder that causes breathing to stop during  
16 sleep and raises the risk for heart disease and type 2 diabetes; and  
17 (4) stroke;

18 n. PCOS is also linked to depression and anxiety; and

19 o. Given all of the increased health risks associated with  
20 endometriosis and PCOS and the number of women impacted by  
21 these disorders, it is imperative that the State establish a Women’s  
22 Menstrual Health Screening Program within the Department of  
23 Health and requirements to screen patients, who have displayed  
24 symptoms related to menstrual disorders, for endometriosis and  
25 PCOS.

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27 2. a. The Commissioner of Health shall establish a  
28 Women’s Menstrual Health Screening Program to screen patients,  
29 who have displayed symptoms related to menstrual disorders, for  
30 endometriosis and PCOS. The Commissioner of Health may issue  
31 regulations to assure that patients are screened in a manner  
32 approved by the commissioner.

33 b. The Department of Health shall charge a reasonable fee for  
34 the screening, follow-up, treatment, and education performed  
35 pursuant to this act. The amount of the fee shall be adjusted by the  
36 commissioner as necessary to support the screening, follow-up, and  
37 treatment of patients, and the education of physicians, hospital  
38 staffs, nurses, and the public as required by this act. The  
39 procedures for collecting the fee shall be determined by the  
40 commissioner. The commissioner shall apply all revenues collected  
41 from the fees to the screening, follow-up, education, and treatment  
42 procedures performed pursuant to this act. The fee shall be used to  
43 support the program, including, but not limited to, ongoing  
44 infrastructure upgrades, and providing electronic access to  
45 physicians to obtain screening results.

46 c. The commissioner shall collect screening information on  
47 patients in a standardized manner and develop a system for quality  
48 assurance which includes the periodic assessment of indicators that

1 are measurable, functional, and appropriate to the conditions for  
2 which patients are screened pursuant to this section. The  
3 commissioner shall have the authority to use the information  
4 collected to provide follow-up to patients with screened positive  
5 diagnoses to provide appropriate referral. Information on patients  
6 compiled pursuant to this section shall be used by the department  
7 and agencies designated by the commissioner for the purposes of  
8 carrying out this act, but otherwise the information shall be  
9 confidential and not divulged or made public so as to disclose the  
10 identity of any person to which it relates, except as provided by law.

11 d. The department shall provide education or training on the  
12 Women’s Menstrual Health Screening Program to physicians,  
13 hospital staffs, nurses, and the public concerning mental health  
14 screening.

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16 3. The Department of Health shall, in accordance with the  
17 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
18 seq.), adopt any rules and regulations as the department deems  
19 necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

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21 4. This act shall take effect on the 30th day following  
22 enactment, except that the Commissioner of Health may take such  
23 anticipatory action in advance as shall be necessary for its  
24 implementation.

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#### STATEMENT

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29 This act establishes a Women’s Menstrual Health Screening  
30 Program and requirements to screen patients, who have displayed  
31 symptoms related to menstrual disorders, for endometriosis and  
32 polycystic ovary syndrome (“PCOS”).

33 Endometriosis may affect more than 11 percent of American  
34 women between the ages of 15 and 44, which is approximately 6.5  
35 million women in the United States alone. Symptoms include  
36 severe pelvic and menstrual pain, infertility, painful bowel  
37 movements, pain with intercourse, excessive bleeding, and nausea.

38 PCOS is one of the most common causes of female infertility,  
39 affecting 6 to 12 percent of women in the United States of  
40 reproductive age (as many as 5 million women). This life-long  
41 health condition continues far beyond the child-bearing years and  
42 involves other serious health complications, including insulin  
43 resistance, gestational diabetes, and heart disease.

44 Given all of the increased health risks associated with  
45 endometriosis and PCOS and the number of women impacted by  
46 these disorders, the bill establishes a Women’s Menstrual Health  
47 Screening Program within the Department of Health, (“DOH”) and  
48 requirements to screen patients, who have displayed symptoms

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1 related to menstrual disorders, for endometriosis and PCOS. The  
2 DOH is to charge a reasonable fee for the screening, follow-up,  
3 treatment, and education performed pursuant to this bill and provide  
4 education or training on the Women's Menstrual Health Screening  
5 Program to physicians, hospital staffs, nurses, and the public  
6 concerning mental health screening. The Commissioner of Health  
7 is to collect screening information on patients in a standardized  
8 manner and develop a system for quality assurance.