

HOUSE BILL 1164

By Turner

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 33; Title 56; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to
lupus.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is created a special joint committee to study issues relative to lupus.

The special joint committee shall:

- (1) Review existing data, reports, and quality of life outcomes from local, state, and national agencies for individuals with lupus;
- (2) Assess the current and future impact of lupus on the residents of this state;
- (3) Assess the availability of programs and services currently provided for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of lupus;
- (4) Assess the effectiveness of programs and services offered and provided to individuals with lupus and their families, including scientifically validated interventions that have demonstrated clinical efficacy;
- (5) Assess the qualifications, training, and supervision of providers screening, diagnosing, and treating lupus, and whether there are adequate provider networks for providers who treat lupus;
- (6) Assess the availability of health care insurance coverage for lupus under various insurance models; and
- (7) Develop recommendations:
 - (A) To improve health care insurance coverage, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of lupus; and

(B) To improve cooperation between state government agencies and nongovernmental organizations and other advocacy groups in order to guide effective public policy regarding screening, diagnosis, and treatment of lupus.

SECTION 2. The special joint committee shall consist of three (3) members of the house of representatives and three (3) members of the senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

SECTION 3. All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

SECTION 4. All legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of the committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

SECTION 5. The special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice chair, and other officers the committee deems necessary.

SECTION 6. The special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 109th general assembly no later than February 1, 2016, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.