

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL DRS45228-LG-52D\* (03/08)

Short Title: Hypertension Awareness Day. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Krawiec, Pate, and Hise (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT DESIGNATING THE THIRD WEDNESDAY IN MAY OF EACH YEAR AS  
3 HYPERTENSION/HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AWARENESS DAY.

4 Whereas, the health of our citizens is the foundation for a caring and productive  
5 society; and our future rests with our ability to treat and ultimately to prevent a variety of  
6 illnesses including high blood pressure; and

7 Whereas, heart disease and stroke are the second and fourth leading causes of death  
8 in North Carolina; and high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a major and  
9 modifiable risk factor for heart disease and stroke and is a major contributor to adult disability;  
10 and

11 Whereas, in 2015, 35.2% of North Carolina adults recalled being told that they had  
12 hypertension; and

13 Whereas, current awareness and treatment for high blood pressure is not adequate;  
14 and

15 Whereas, more than two out of every three people who have a first heart attack also  
16 have high blood pressure, and three out of every four people who have a first stroke also have  
17 high blood pressure; and

18 Whereas, adequate medical treatments and proven preventive health strategies that  
19 include a low-salt diet with more fruits and vegetables are beneficial; and

20 Whereas, patients with high blood pressure who are treated early have a longer life  
21 expectancy; and

22 Whereas, education can help with early diagnosis, prevention, and better treatment;  
23 and

24 Whereas, the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force, the  
25 American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, and the North Carolina Academy of  
26 Family Physicians are organizations that have agreed to support Hypertension/High Blood  
27 Pressure Awareness Day, scheduled for the third Wednesday in May in 2017 and continuing in  
28 perpetuity; and these partners seek ways to improve the health of the citizens of North Carolina  
29 by improving prevention and treatment of high blood pressure through support of education,  
30 advocacy, and awareness; Now therefore,

31 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

32 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
33 section to read:

34 **"§ 103-15. Hypertension/High Blood Pressure Awareness Day.**

35 The third Wednesday in May of each year is designated as Hypertension/High Blood  
36 Pressure Awareness Day in North Carolina."



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