

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1115

Short Title: Designate Psoriasis Awareness Month. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Guley, Cotham, Burris-Floyd (Primary Sponsors); Dollar, Farmer-Butterfield, Fisher, Folwell, Harrell, Harrison, Lucas, Mills, Randleman, Setzer, Stam, and Whilden.

Referred to: Health, if favorable, State Government/State Personnel.

April 7, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF AUGUST AS PSORIASIS AWARENESS
3 MONTH.

4 Whereas, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are chronic, autoimmune diseases for
5 which there is no cure; and

6 Whereas, as many as 7,500,000 men, women, and children in the United States have
7 been diagnosed with either psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis; and

8 Whereas, as many as 210,000 people in North Carolina alone have been diagnosed
9 with psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis; and

10 Whereas, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are painful and disabling diseases that have
11 a significant and adverse impact on the quality of life of an individual diagnosed with either of
12 these diseases; and

13 Whereas, the National Institute of Mental Health funded a study that found that
14 psoriasis may cause as much physical and mental disability as other major diseases, including
15 cancer, arthritis, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, and depression; and

16 Whereas, psoriasis is associated with elevated rates of depression and suicidal
17 ideation; and

18 Whereas, total direct and indirect health costs of psoriasis are calculated at over
19 \$11,250,000,000 annually; and

20 Whereas, early diagnosis and treatment of psoriatic arthritis may help prevent
21 irreversible joint damage; and

22 Whereas, treating psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis presents a challenge for patients
23 and physicians because no one treatment works for everyone, some treatments lose
24 effectiveness over time, many treatments are used in combination with other treatments, and all
25 treatments may cause a unique set of side effects; Now, therefore,

26 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

29 "**§ 103-12. Psoriasis Awareness Month.**

30 The month of August of each year is designated as Psoriasis Awareness Month in North
31 Carolina."

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

