



SENATE BILL 586: Study Lipedema.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	January 6, 2022
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Theresa Matula Committee Staff
Analysis of:	S.L. 2021-29		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2021-29 requires the Legislative Research Commission to study medical issues surrounding lipedema and to report findings and any proposed legislation to the 2022 Regular Session of the 2021 General Assembly.*

This act became effective June 11, 2021.

CURRENT LAW: The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) was created by Article 6B, Chapter 120. Among other powers and duties, G.S. 120-30.17 provides that the LRC is authorized to make or cause to be made such studies and investigations into governmental agencies and institutions and matters of public policy as will aid the General Assembly in performing its duties and to report the study results.

BILL ANALYSIS: The act requires the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) to study medical issues surrounding lipedema. The LRC is required to report findings, and any proposed legislation to the 2022 Regular Session of the 2021 General Assembly.

The study must specifically address the following:

- The number of women who have been diagnosed with lipedema over the last five years and the symptoms associated with the disease.
- The number of women with lipedema who have been misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed over the last five years.
- The causes and cures for lipedema.
- Effective therapies for managing the symptoms associated with lipedema and whether these therapies are affordable and readily available within the State.
- Whether lipedema disproportionately affects a particular population of women in the State.
- Any other matters deemed relevant.

BACKGROUND: The following information is from the US Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center:

"[Lipedema](#) is characterized by increased enlargement of both legs due to deposits of fat beneath the skin. Symptoms of lipedema usually occur in women and begin around times of hormonal change, such as puberty or menopause. Symptoms may include enlargement of the upper legs, arms, pain, and easy bruising. The cause of lipedema is unknown. Many people with lipedema have a family member with lipedema, and it is likely that genetic factors are involved. Diagnosis is based on the symptoms and a clinical exam. Other more common conditions may need to be ruled out before lipedema is diagnosed. Treatment of lipedema is focused on managing the symptoms and includes both non-surgical and surgical methods." Links to: [Lipedema Foundation](#) and the [Lipedema Foundation Registry](#)

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