

CHAPTER 16**(HCR 13)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity.

WHEREAS, the obesity epidemic is taking a toll on Kentucky's economy. Obesity costs Kentucky over \$1.2 billion a year in health care expenses, and obese workers file twice as many workers' compensation claims, have seven times higher medical costs from these claims, and lose 13 times more days of work from work injury or work illness than nonobese workers; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has the fifth highest level of adult obesity in the nation, with 69 percent of adults overweight or obese, the third highest level of overweight high school students, and the third highest overweight levels for low-income children ages two to five years; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that overweight children have an 80 percent chance of remaining overweight through adulthood; and

WHEREAS, overweight children are more likely to suffer from Type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, early maturation, and orthopedic problems; and

WHEREAS, the long-term health consequences of childhood obesity include increased risk of diabetes, stroke, arthritis, heart attack, colon cancer, prostate cancer, and breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, in addition to physiological problems, overweight children often suffer consequences of negative social stereotypes and are more likely than children with healthier weights to have low self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, adequate and appropriate nutrition, active living, and maintaining healthy weight are critical to an individual's health and productivity as well as to Kentucky's future workforce and economic development; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of all citizens of the Commonwealth to encourage children to maintain healthy lifestyles for their own future well-being;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is directed to establish the Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity. The task force shall meet at least monthly during the 2011 Interim of the General Assembly.

➔Section 2. The charge of the task force shall include but not be limited to the study of issues relating to childhood obesity. The task force shall consider and recommend to the General Assembly strategies for addressing the problem of childhood obesity and encouraging healthy eating and increased physical activity among children through:

- (1) Early childhood intervention;
- (2) Childcare facilities;
- (3) Before-school and after-school programs;
- (4) Physical education and physical activity in schools;
- (5) Higher nutrition standards in schools;
- (6) Comprehensive nutrition education in schools;
- (7) Increased access to recreational activities for children;
- (8) Community initiatives and public awareness; and
- (9) Other means.

➔Section 3. The task force shall encourage input from pediatric healthcare professionals, public nonprofit organizations, including Partnership for a Fit Kentucky, and professionals that promote healthy lifestyles for children, that address the problems related to childhood obesity, and that encourage healthy eating and increased physical activity among children.

➔Section 4. The task force shall be composed of members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate shall each appoint five members and one member to serve as co-chair. Final membership of the task force shall be subject to consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission.

➔Section 5. The Legislative Research Commission shall provide staff for the task force.

➔Section 6. The task force shall submit a report of its recommendations and any findings to the Legislative Research Commission and the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare by November 30, 2011, and thereafter the task force shall cease to exist.

➔Section 7. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.

Signed by Governor March 16, 2011.