

CHAPTER 162**(HB 550)**

AN ACT relating to nutrition.

WHEREAS, it has been shown that improved nutrition, along with physical activity, can promote health, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and reduce the prevalence of obesity; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, Americans are being urged to trim their waistlines to reduce the risk of developing diet-related chronic disease by consuming all types of healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, grains, low-fat dairy products, nutritious meats, and fish, and by consuming less sodium, fats, and added sugars; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds the public interest to be advanced and the health of the people of the Commonwealth to be enhanced if individuals at risk for obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma, certain cancers, coronary heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes adopt healthier lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that, because many nationwide studies demonstrate the value of proper nutrition, further review is needed regarding Kentucky-centered studies and programs conducted in the state, either at universities or with other entities and agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The staff of the Legislative Research Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of:

(1) The available studies or programs, undertaken either prior to or during the period of the study, that focus on the nutritional habits of Kentucky citizens and the health outcomes of those habits;

(2) The relevant studies and programs, undertaken either prior to or during the period of the study, that investigate the nutritional habits of the state population; and

(3) Any long-term or short-term pilot projects, undertaken either prior to or during the period of the study, that measure risk assessments of participating individuals. The individual assessments may include measurement of total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, triglycerides, fasting blood glucose, blood pressure, heart rate, waist measurement, height, and weight.

➔Section 2. The staff of the Legislative Research Commission, in addition to undertaking the review set out in Section 1 of this Act, shall interview persons knowledgeable about the issue of the nutritional habits of Kentucky citizens, including but not limited to:

(1) Licensed physicians, registered nurses, and other health professionals;

(2) Officials with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and other relevant state agencies;

(3) Educators with expertise in proper nutrition and healthy lifestyles associated with Kentucky colleges and universities that offer degrees in medicine, nursing, or public health;

(4) Persons representing local health departments and pertinent state university cooperative extension service offices;

(5) Persons associated with relevant for-profit or nonprofit organizations headquartered in Kentucky; and

(6) Persons representing the agricultural industry, including but not limited to the Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Community Farm Alliance, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, the Kentucky Pork Producers Association, the Kentucky Poultry Federation, the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, and the Kentucky Horticulture Council.

➔Section 3. In addition to a review of the relevant research and the interviews set out in Section 1 and Section 2 of this Act, the staff of the Legislative Research Commission shall investigate the need for establishment of a healthy nutrition pilot project that would measure health risk assessments of participating individuals.

➔Section 4. The staff shall submit a written report detailing its study findings to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate interim joint committee on or before November 30, 2012.

➔Section 5. Provisions of this bill 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.

➔Section 6. This Act shall have the same legal status as a House Concurrent Resolution.

Signed by Governor April 23, 2012.