

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR HEITMEIER

HEALTH CARE. Creates a joint legislative committee on obesity.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and provide with respect to a joint legislative committee to study and make recommendations with respect to obesity in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, according to a study released by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Louisiana is the most obese state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's current adult obesity rate is the nation's highest at thirty-four point seven percent, up from twenty-four point eight percent in 2003 and twelve point three percent in 1990; and

WHEREAS, obesity is costing Louisiana lives and healthcare dollars; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual estimated medical cost of obesity in the United States was one hundred forty-seven billion dollars in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the medical costs for individuals who are obese are one thousand four hundred twenty-nine dollars higher than the costs for those individuals having a healthy weight; and

WHEREAS, obesity leads to other health issues, including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, stroke, and cancer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

1 create a joint legislative committee to oversee and make recommendations with respect to  
2 obesity in the state of Louisiana.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint legislative committee created herein  
4 shall include the following:

5 (1) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.

6 (2) Chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his designee.

7 (3) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or his designee.

8 (4) Chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, or his designee.

9 (5) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public  
10 Works, or his designee.

11 (6) Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public  
12 Works, or his designee.

13 (7) One member of the Senate appointed by the president.

14 (8) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of the Senate shall name one of the  
16 Senate members appointed to the committee as chairperson for the limited purpose of calling  
17 the organizational meeting of the committee.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall elect a chairperson and such  
19 other officers as it determines necessary at its organizational meeting.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall  
21 constitute a quorum of the committee, and any official action by the committee shall require  
22 an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at  
24 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and  
25 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this  
26 Resolution.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the committee makes a report of its  
28 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report  
29 shall be made to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2015  
30 Regular Session and the 2016 Regular Session.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authority for this joint committee shall  
2 terminate on February 1, 2016.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

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DIGEST

Heitmeier

SCR No. 21

Creates a joint legislative committee to oversee and make recommendations with respect to obesity in the state of Louisiana. Terminates authority for the joint committee February 1, 2016.