

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR HEITMEIER

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 has the highest obesity rate among all the states in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's current adult obesity rate is 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 create a joint legislative committee to oversee and make recommendations with respect to obesity in the state of Louisiana.

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

- (1) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.
- (2) Chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his designee.
- (3) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or his designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES