

2007 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 637

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study childhood obesity in Virginia's public schools. Report.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 22, 2007

Agreed to by the Senate, February 21, 2007

WHEREAS, 28% of Virginia's school children were clinically obese in 2003; and
WHEREAS, an additional 17% of Virginia's school children were at risk for becoming obese in 2003; and

WHEREAS, only 58% of school children have recess every day in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the problem of childhood obesity appears to be underestimated by parents, schools, and communities despite considerable attention to this critical public health problem; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity has been linked to Type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and increased risk of health problems in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, Virginia received a grade of "C" on the University of Baltimore Obesity Report Card for its efforts to control childhood obesity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study childhood obesity in Virginia's public schools. The joint subcommittee shall then develop legislative measures to combat the problem of childhood obesity. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 13 members that shall consist of eight legislative members, two nonlegislative citizen members, and three ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: five members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; one nonlegislative citizen member who shall be an employee of the Department of Education to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates upon consideration of the recommendation of the Governor, if any; and one nonlegislative citizen member who shall be an employee of the Department of Health to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules upon consideration of the recommendation of the Governor, if any. The Lieutenant Governor or his designee, the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his designee, and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources or her designee shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall ascertain methods of combating childhood obesity in Virginia public schools and examine the relationship between the health and physical education curriculum; public health policies; social, economic, and cultural influences; media messages; and the incidence of overweight and obese students in the public schools. Further, the joint subcommittee shall examine methods to increase parental involvement and education to ensure proper nutrition of children, and survey other states to determine practices that have been useful in combating childhood obesity.

The joint subcommittee shall provide opportunities for the participation of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Medical Society of Virginia, the Old Dominion Medical Society, School Nutrition Association of Virginia, parents, students, the education community, business and industry, and other interested parties so that they may share their perspectives on the issues, problems, and solutions related to childhood obesity.

Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Department of Education and the Department of Health. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2007 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$8,000 without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

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No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2007, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and the report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2007 interim.