

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Childhood and adolescent obesity has reached
3 epidemic proportions among American youth; the American Obesity
4 Association revealed in 2000 that the incidence of obesity in
5 children and adolescents had quadrupled since 1971, with 15.3
6 percent of children ages 6 to 11 and 15.5 percent of adolescents
7 ages 12 to 19 identified as obese; and

8 WHEREAS, Even more alarming is the increasing prevalence of
9 overweight among the nation's children and adolescents, which is
10 commonly an indicator of potential health problems as an adult;
11 according to the same study by the American Obesity Association,
12 approximately 30.3 percent of children ages 6 to 11 and 30.4 percent
13 of adolescents ages 12 to 19 are overweight, and overweight
14 children aged 10 to 14 with at least one overweight or obese parent
15 were reported to have a 79 percent likelihood of overweight
16 persisting into adulthood; and

17 WHEREAS, The potential lifelong consequences of this
18 epidemic are evidenced by the fact that overweight and obese
19 children are at higher risk for serious long-term health problems,
20 including Type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke,
21 hypertension, asthma, orthopedic complications, sleep apnea, gall
22 bladder disease, and certain cancers; the Texas Department of
23 Health reports that 62.4 percent of all deaths in Texas result from
24 four of these chronic diseases--heart disease, cancer, stroke, and

1 diabetes--each of which can be prevented through healthy habits
2 developed in childhood; and

3 WHEREAS, The school environment plays a critical role in
4 establishing a child's nutritional regimen and meeting a child's
5 dietary needs; indeed, a child who eats a school breakfast and lunch
6 that meet the nutritional standards established by the United
7 States Department of Agriculture for the national school breakfast
8 and national school lunch programs receives 60 percent of the
9 child's average daily nutritional needs; and

10 WHEREAS, Overweight and obesity are far-reaching problems
11 not unique to any one racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group; the
12 Texas Legislature has long recognized that the health of the State
13 of Texas depends on the health of its children and this latest
14 crisis merits its utmost attention; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
17 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study
18 nutrition in public schools, obesity-related and nutrition-related
19 diseases, a universal breakfast and lunch program, and competitive
20 food and vending machine contracts, revenues, and accountability of
21 revenues; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the interim committee be composed of the
23 following members: the commissioner of education, the commissioner
24 of public health, the commissioner of agriculture, three members of
25 the senate, appointed by the lieutenant governor, and three members
26 of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
27 house of representatives; and, be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the governor be invited to appoint members to
2 the committee with the request that such appointees include the
3 following: one member who is a physician who provides health
4 services to school-aged children, one member who has expertise in
5 nutrition, one member who is a parent of a school-aged child, and
6 one member who is a superintendent of schools or school principal;
7 and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the interim committee hold hearings
9 throughout the state during the interim of the 78th Legislature to:

10 (1) determine the nutritional content and quality of
11 foods and beverages served to public schoolchildren, including food
12 service meals, a la carte foods, and competitive foods and vending
13 machines;

14 (2) evaluate the short-term and long-term financial,
15 psychological, and physiological impact of obesity in public
16 schoolchildren;

17 (3) assess the academic, emotional, and health value
18 of a universal breakfast and lunch program by evaluating
19 schoolchildren from school districts that provide everyone a free
20 or reduced-price breakfast and lunch;

21 (4) evaluate school contracts relating to competitive
22 food products and vending machines to determine economic and other
23 impacts of potential conflicts of interest; the length of
24 contracts; advertising and marketing of competitive food products;
25 revenues realized by schools and school districts arising from the
26 sale of competitive food products; officials in charge of receiving
27 and disbursing revenue and the accounting of that revenue; and

1 losses sustained by each school district's food service program to
2 competitive foods; and

3 (5) consult with the School Health Advisory Council to
4 carry out its duties; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
6 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim
7 committees as the 78th Legislature may adopt and that such rules and
8 policies supersede the provisions of this resolution to the extent
9 of any conflict; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the interim committee submit a full report,
11 including findings and recommendations to the governor, the
12 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of
13 representatives not later than October 1, 2004.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 49 was adopted by the Senate on May 15, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 49 was adopted by the House on May 28, 2003.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor