

1-1 By: Lucio S.C.R. No. 49
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed May 5, 2003; May 6, 2003, read first
1-3 time and referred to Committee on Administration; May 13, 2003,
1-4 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
1-5 May 13, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Childhood and adolescent obesity has reached
1-8 epidemic proportions among American youth; the American Obesity
1-9 Association revealed in 2000 that the incidence of obesity in
1-10 children and adolescents had quadrupled since 1971, with 15.3
1-11 percent of children ages 6 to 11 and 15.5 percent of adolescents
1-12 ages 12 to 19 identified as obese; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Even more alarming is the increasing prevalence of
1-14 overweight among the nation's children and adolescents, which is
1-15 commonly an indicator of potential health problems as an adult;
1-16 according to the same study by the American Obesity Association,
1-17 approximately 30.3 percent of children ages 6 to 11 and 30.4 percent
1-18 of adolescents ages 12 to 19 are overweight, and overweight
1-19 children aged 10 to 14 with at least one overweight or obese parent
1-20 were reported to have a 79 percent likelihood of overweight
1-21 persisting into adulthood; and

1-22 WHEREAS, The potential lifelong consequences of this
1-23 epidemic are evidenced by the fact that overweight and obese
1-24 children are at higher risk for serious long-term health problems,
1-25 including Type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke,
1-26 hypertension, asthma, orthopedic complications, sleep apnea, gall
1-27 bladder disease, and certain cancers; the Texas Department of
1-28 Health reports that 62.4 percent of all deaths in Texas result from
1-29 four of these chronic diseases--heart disease, cancer, stroke, and
1-30 diabetes--each of which can be prevented through healthy habits
1-31 developed in childhood; and

1-32 WHEREAS, The school environment plays a critical role in
1-33 establishing a child's nutritional regimen and meeting a child's
1-34 dietary needs; indeed, a child who eats a school breakfast and lunch
1-35 that meet the nutritional standards established by the United
1-36 States Department of Agriculture for the national school breakfast
1-37 and national school lunch programs receives 60 percent of the
1-38 child's average daily nutritional needs; and

1-39 WHEREAS, Overweight and obesity are far-reaching problems
1-40 not unique to any one racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group; the
1-41 Texas Legislature has long recognized that the health of the State
1-42 of Texas depends on the health of its children and this latest
1-43 crisis merits its utmost attention; now, therefore, be it

1-44 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-45 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
1-46 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study
1-47 nutrition in public schools, obesity-related and nutrition-related
1-48 diseases, a universal breakfast and lunch program, and competitive
1-49 food and vending machine contracts, revenues, and accountability of
1-50 revenues; and, be it further

1-51 RESOLVED, That the interim committee be composed of the
1-52 following members: the commissioner of education, the commissioner
1-53 of public health, the commissioner of agriculture, three members of
1-54 the senate, appointed by the lieutenant governor, and three members
1-55 of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
1-56 house of representatives; and, be it further

1-57 RESOLVED, That the governor be invited to appoint members to
1-58 the committee with the request that such appointees include the
1-59 following: one member who is a physician who provides health
1-60 services to school-aged children, one member who has expertise in
1-61 nutrition, one member who is a parent of a school-aged child, and
1-62 one member who is a superintendent of schools or school principal;
1-63 and, be it further

1-64 RESOLVED, That the interim committee hold hearings

2-1 throughout the state during the interim of the 78th Legislature to:
2-2 (1) determine the nutritional content and quality of
2-3 foods and beverages served to public schoolchildren, including food
2-4 service meals, a la carte foods, and competitive foods and vending
2-5 machines;
2-6 (2) evaluate the short-term and long-term financial,
2-7 psychological, and physiological impact of obesity in public
2-8 schoolchildren;
2-9 (3) assess the academic, emotional, and health value
2-10 of a universal breakfast and lunch program by evaluating
2-11 schoolchildren from school districts that provide everyone a free
2-12 or reduced-price breakfast and lunch;
2-13 (4) evaluate school contracts relating to competitive
2-14 food products and vending machines to determine economic and other
2-15 impacts of potential conflicts of interest; the length of
2-16 contracts; advertising and marketing of competitive food products;
2-17 revenues realized by schools and school districts arising from the
2-18 sale of competitive food products; officials in charge of receiving
2-19 and disbursing revenue and the accounting of that revenue; and
2-20 losses sustained by each school district's food service program to
2-21 competitive foods; and
2-22 (5) consult with the School Health Advisory Council to
2-23 carry out its duties; and, be it further
2-24 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
2-25 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim
2-26 committees as the 78th Legislature may adopt and that such rules and
2-27 policies supersede the provisions of this resolution to the extent
2-28 of any conflict; and, be it further
2-29 RESOLVED, That the interim committee submit a full report,
2-30 including findings and recommendations to the governor, the
2-31 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of
2-32 representatives not later than October 1, 2004.

2-33

* * * * *