

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 243 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, BISHOP, ROZZI, WHITE, BAKER, V. BROWN,
COHEN, BARRAR, READSHAW, LONGIETTI, MARSICO, SCHLOSSBERG,
MAJOR, THOMAS, WATSON, TOOHIL, D. EVANS, QUINN, MOUL,
KAVULICH, FLECK, D. COSTA AND FARRY, APRIL 15, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AS AMENDED, MAY 13, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the
2 issue of childhood obesity, to establish an advisory
3 committee to conduct a comprehensive study of childhood
4 obesity, to propose strategies for healthier eating and
5 physical activity for children and to report to the House of
6 Representatives with its findings, recommendations and
7 legislation.

8 WHEREAS, Research studies have found that childhood obesity
9 has reached epidemic proportions in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, More than 23 million children, approximately one in
11 every three, are either obese or overweight; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health reports that
13 32.6% of children in kindergarten through grade six and 34.1% of
14 children in grades seven through twelve are overweight or obese;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Obese children are more likely to have a variety of
17 dangerous health conditions, including high blood pressure and
18 cholesterol, breathing problems such as sleep apnea and asthma
19 and joint and musculoskeletal discomfort; and

1 WHEREAS, Obese children are more likely to be obese as adults
2 with the potential for other serious health conditions, such as
3 heart disease, diabetes and some types of cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, Childhood obesity has been demonstrated to span
5 gender, socioeconomic status, race and age; and

6 WHEREAS, Two of the most common modifiable risk factors for
7 childhood obesity are unhealthy diet and physical inactivity;
8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
10 State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee
11 of 25 members consisting of representatives from the Department
12 of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Health,
13 child and school health and nutrition professionals, a
14 pediatrician, A LICENSED DIETITIAN-NUTRITIONIST, a health and <--
15 physical education teacher, a school nurse and representatives
16 from not-for-profit organizations and associations whose
17 missions include the promotion of healthy living initiatives;
18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
20 with the advisory committee, conduct a thorough and
21 comprehensive study of childhood obesity in this Commonwealth,
22 including any existing obesity prevention and wellness
23 strategies; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
25 with the advisory committee, study and report on regulatory and
26 statutory initiatives and best practices in other states as well
27 as any studies or initiatives promoted by the Centers for
28 Disease Control and Prevention or other national research
29 organizations; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission may, as

1 it deems necessary, hold informational meetings to receive
2 testimony from professionals or organizations with expertise in
3 childhood obesity or healthy living strategies; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That the final report include findings of fact,
6 recommendations for additional strategies and policies with the
7 goal of preventing childhood obesity and legislation supporting
8 any one or more of the proposed recommendations; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
11 report to the House of Representatives with its findings and
12 recommendations not later than 12 months from the date of
13 adoption of this resolution.