

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 160

BY SENATOR DUPRE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of group benefits to study the bariatric surgery demonstration program initiated in 2004 and provide a written report of the results of the study to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than January 5, 2009.

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the percentage of American adults classified as obese is over twenty-six percent of the total population and the percentage of Louisiana adults classified as obese is over thirty percent; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the highest obesity rates per capita in the country; and

WHEREAS, according to at least one university study, three out of four American adults could be classified as overweight or obese by 2015; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty years, the proportion of overweight children ages six through eleven has more than doubled while the rate of overweight adolescents ages twelve through nineteen has tripled; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent United States Department of Health and Human Services data, the total cost of obesity in the United States is over one hundred seventeen billion dollars each year and over one billion three hundred million dollars annually in Louisiana alone; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 report by the conference board concluded that obesity costs United States companies as much as forty-five billion dollars a year in medical expenditures and decreased productivity; and

WHEREAS, people with obesity are at increased risk for many of the most costly and debilitating chronic diseases, including but not limited to type 2 diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, gallbladder disease, gastroesophageal reflux disease, respiratory problems, and stroke, as well as endometrial, breast, prostate, and colon

cancers, and poor female reproductive health, and depression; and

WHEREAS, the obesity epidemic is a complex problem, with no one villain or a magic bullet solution, and will require a wide range of policy, environmental, cultural, and personal changes to reverse; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the urgency and complexity of the obesity epidemic, and that obesity must be addressed via meaningful action across the policy landscape.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana commits to considering opportunities for addressing the obesity epidemic such as improving nutrition, increasing physical activity, and expanding obesity management and treatment in all major legislative actions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of group benefits to study the bariatric surgery demonstration program initiated in 2004 and provide a written report, if possible, of the results of the study to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than January 5, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if such a study is incomplete or impossible to complete by January 5, 2009, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of group benefits to propose a new study of bariatric surgery coverage for forty state employees and initiate a comprehensive plan to ensure that surgeries are completed in a recognized American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery or American College of Surgeons Center of Excellence Bariatric Program prior to December 1, 2009.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE