

HOUSE BILL No. 2781

By Committee on Appropriations

3-8

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- 1 AN ACT creating the task force on obesity prevention and management.
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3 WHEREAS, Kansas is experiencing an obesity epidemic among adults
4 and youth; and
5 WHEREAS, Obesity constitutes a grave threat to the health and well-being
6 of our nation, as rates have risen dramatically over the past decades
7 with particularly strong impact on diverse and disadvantaged
8 communities; and
9 WHEREAS, The United States now has the highest rate of obesity among
10 all developed nations; and
11 WHEREAS, Unless industry, the public and the government work together
12 to address the issue, three in four Americans will become
13 overweight or obese by 2020; and
14 WHEREAS, Data from 2007 shows that 31.1% of Kansas children are
15 overweight or obese; and
16 WHEREAS, Over the past three decades, the childhood obesity rate has
17 more than doubled for preschool children aged 2-5 years and
18 adolescents aged 12-19 years, and it has more than tripled for
19 children aged 6-11 years; and
20 WHEREAS, At present, approximately nine million children over 6 years
21 of age are considered obese; and
22 WHEREAS, Physical inactivity and poor nutrition comprise the second
23 leading actual cause of death; and
24 WHEREAS, Overall, 65% of high school students watched two or more
25 hours of television on an average school day, displacing physical
26 activity and increasing caloric intake during viewing; and
27 WHEREAS, Overweight and obesity lead to increased risk for heart
28 disease, stroke, diabetes, some cancers, osteoarthritis, other health
29 conditions and chronic diseases; and
30 WHEREAS, In Kansas, as well as the United States, minority populations
31 are disproportionately affected by overweight and obesity and the
32 resulting complications; and
33 WHEREAS, Healthy eating and physical activity have been proven to
34 reduce one's risk for developing preventable chronic conditions and
35 improving overall physical and mental health; and
36 WHEREAS, Overweight and obesity are causing tremendous increases in

1 national and state health care costs, including state medicaid
2 spending; and
3 WHEREAS, Promoting healthy lifestyles will support family stability
4 since children are severely impacted by disease and death of family
5 members; and
6 WHEREAS, It is of vital importance and in the best interest of the people
7 of the state of Kansas that the current needs of our youth are
8 addressed in a comprehensive and meaningful manner to plan now
9 for Kansas' healthy economic future: Now, therefore,

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11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

12 Section 1. (a) There is hereby created the Kansas task force on
13 obesity prevention and management, hereinafter referred to as the “task
14 force,” within the department of health and environment. In addition to
15 any legislative appropriation, the task force may apply for, accept and
16 expend grants and private donations from any source, including federal,
17 state, public and private entities, to assist the task force in carrying out its
18 functions.19 (b) The duties of the task force shall include, but not be limited to, the
20 following:21 (1) Recommend ways to promote the recognition of overweight and
22 obesity as a major public health problem in Kansas that also has serious
23 implications for Kansas' economic prosperity.24 (2) Review data and other research to determine the number of
25 Kansas' children who are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight.26 (3) Identify the contributing factors to the increasing burden of
27 overweight and obesity in Kansas.28 (4) Recommend ways to help Kansans balance healthy eating with
29 regular physical activity to achieve and maintain a healthy or healthier
30 body weight.31 (5) Identify and research evidenced-based strategies to promote
32 lifelong physical activity and lifelong healthful nutrition, and to assist
33 those who are already overweight or obese to maintain healthy lifestyles.34 (6) Identify effective and culturally appropriate interventions to
35 prevent and treat overweight and obesity.36 (7) Provide policy recommendations to improve healthful nutrition
37 and physical activity for our youth, especially in areas where they
38 congregate such as schools, after-school programs, and community and
39 youth centers.40 (8) Provide recommendations for parents, caregivers, health care
41 providers, youth leaders and other youth-based programs to encourage and
42 support healthy eating and increased physical activity to promote family
43 strengthening and family stability.

1 (c) The task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than
2 August 1, 2012. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the task force
3 shall be appointed by the secretary of health and environment. The
4 department of health and environment shall provide such administrative
5 assistance as may be requested by the task force. The task force may adopt
6 such rules of procedure as are necessary to facilitate orderly conduct of its
7 business.

8 (d) The task force shall submit a report, including proposed
9 legislation if necessary, to the governor, the speaker of the house of
10 representatives and the president of the senate, on or before November 1,
11 2013. Such report shall include a comprehensive state plan for
12 implementation of services and programs in the state of Kansas to increase
13 prevention and management of the disease of obesity in children and an
14 estimate of the cost of implementation of such a plan.

15 (e) All departments, boards, agencies, officers and institutions of the
16 state and all subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the task force in
17 carrying out its purposes pursuant to this section.

18 (f) All members shall be reimbursed for necessary and actual
19 expenses incurred for traveling and subsistence in the performance of
20 serving on the task force from the legislative appropriation to the
21 department of health and environment.

22 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
23 publication in the statute book.
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