

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Britt**  
Requested: October 25, 2004  
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2005  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: January 27, 2005

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Obesity Awareness**

3 FOR the purpose of recognizing obesity as an increasing health concern and cause of  
4 rising medical costs in Maryland; declaring the month of November as Obesity  
5 Awareness Month; and generally relating to obesity awareness.

6 WHEREAS, Maryland's leaders have a responsibility to encourage and promote  
7 healthy lifestyles for the residents of the State, including communicating information  
8 about healthy diet and the importance of physical activity; and

9 WHEREAS, Obesity is a serious medical condition; and

10 WHEREAS, The number of overweight and obese adults increased 62% between  
11 1990 and 2002; and

12 WHEREAS, Presently 58% of adults in Maryland are overweight or obese, and  
13 the frequency of these conditions increases with age; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2002, approximately 15.3% of children between the ages of 6 and  
15 11 years old and 15.5% of adolescents between the ages of 12 and 19 years old were  
16 overweight or at risk of being overweight; and

17 WHEREAS, Overweight and obese adults are at increased risk for  
18 cardiovascular disease, diabetes, stroke, hypertension, gall bladder disease,  
19 osteoarthritis, and some cancers; and

20 WHEREAS, Overweight children are at increased risk for hypertension,  
21 asthma, sleep apnea, and diabetes as well as poor psychosocial functioning and  
22 decreased well-being; and

1 WHEREAS, Obesity ranks second only to smoking as a preventable cause of  
2 death; and

3 WHEREAS, A study by the Centers for Disease Control estimates that medical  
4 expenditures attributable to obesity in the United States reached \$75 billion in 2003  
5 and that taxpayers financed approximately half of these costs through Medicare and  
6 Medicaid; and

7 WHEREAS, In Maryland, over 8%, or \$368 million, of medical expenditures are  
8 attributable to obesity in the Medicare population and over 13%, or \$391 million, of  
9 medical expenditures in Maryland are attributable to obesity in the Medicaid  
10 population; and

11 WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the residents of the State to continue to  
12 implement effective existing methods of treatment and prevention of adult and  
13 childhood obesity and to reduce the potential for other serious medical conditions  
14 caused or exacerbated by obesity; and

15 WHEREAS, Education, prevention, and proper treatment of obesity can reduce  
16 health care costs and improve the quality of life for a significant number of adults and  
17 children in Maryland; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
19 General Assembly acknowledges obesity as a growing epidemic, and urges  
20 communities, businesses, and schools throughout the State to develop awareness  
21 campaigns and voluntary programs appropriate to their settings that focus on the  
22 causes of and prevention of obesity, the symptoms and long-term consequences  
23 associated with obesity, and the healthy alternatives for food choices and appropriate  
24 programs of physical fitness that lead to control of weight and improved lifestyle; and  
25 be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly further encourages the expansion of  
27 physical education in schools, the creation of obesity prevention programs for the  
28 whole family, and the inclusion of obesity prevention in medical school curricula; and  
29 be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the month of November is declared Obesity Awareness Month  
31 in Maryland; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
33 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
34 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
35 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.

