

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Garrard
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Carter

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 21 – 0 – 0

House – Yeas: D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Hanna, Jenson, Morgan, Nathanson, Nolan, Shields
– Nays:
– Exc:

Senate – Yeas: Bates, Carter, Devlin, Gordly, Johnson, Morse, Nelson, Schrader, Verger, Westlund, Whitsett, Winters
– Nays:
– Exc:

Prepared By: John Britton, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 6/20/07

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Task Force for a Comprehensive Obesity Prevention Initiative and establishes membership of the task force. Directs the task force to study obesity prevention, treatment, ways to decrease obesity in the state, and to develop a plan to implement and fund initiatives to reduce obesity and obesity-related disease. Requires task force to submit recommendations to the Legislature by October 1, 2008. Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide staff support and specifies that director of DHS, or director's designee, will serve as the chairperson of the task force. Declares emergency, effective on passage and repeals act when the 75th Legislative Assembly convenes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The epidemic nature of obesity in Oregon
- The other health problems obesity causes
- The Oregon Health Policy Commission report on obesity which proposed a variety of strategies to reduce obesity in Oregon
- DHS will be absorbing the task force costs required in this measure
- The need for more preventive efforts to help children with better nutrition

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Sixty percent of adult Oregonians were found to be obese or overweight in 2005, with the prevalence of obesity increasing by 118% between 1990 and 2005. 82% of Oregonians with diabetes and 69% of Oregonians with a history of heart attack are overweight or obese. In 2003, the estimated medical costs related to obesity among adults were \$781 million, represented 6% of the state's total health care spending. 6% of Medicare costs and 9% of Medicaid spending in 2003 were attributed to obesity.

One quarter of children in Oregon are overweight or at risk of being overweight. The percentage of eleventh graders who are overweight or at risk of being overweight increased 63% between 2001 and 2005. Three in four eighth graders and four in five eleventh graders do not eat the recommended five or more servings of fruit or vegetables per day.

The Oregon Health Policy Commission issued a report in January 2007 entitled Promoting Physical Activity and Health Nutrition Among Oregon's Youth. One of the top three recommendations contained in the report is the creation of a statewide, comprehensive obesity prevention and education program for the state.