

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON AND SENATORS CHEEK, GAUTREAUX,
MILLS, MOUNT, AND NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Office of Group Benefits to conduct a study on the financial benefits of establishing a program to address the high rate of obesity in Louisiana and to report the findings to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than January 1, 2012.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana ranks fourth in the nation in obesity; and

WHEREAS, more than twenty-nine percent of the state's adult population is obese; and

WHEREAS, more than thirty-six percent of the ten- to seventeen-year-olds in the state are overweight and obese; and

WHEREAS, a number of unfavorable heart conditions and illnesses result directly from obesity, including heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Office of Group Benefits to conduct a study on the financial benefits of establishing a program for the management and treatment of obesity and related conditions through various methods, including gastric banding and bariatric surgery techniques as a treatment option.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program to be considered shall be open to no more than one hundred state employees from different regions of the state in each of the first two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that eligibility for the program shall include but not be limited to a body mass index greater than or equal to forty kilograms per square meter or a body mass index greater than or equal to thirty-five with two existing comorbidities and participation in the state employees group benefits program for at least two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings shall include but not be limited to the total number of state employees currently participating in the state employees group benefits program, annual expenditures on cardiovascular events, annual expenditures on open heart surgeries, annual expenditures on strokes and related rehabilitation, monthly expenditures on blood pressure medications, monthly expenditures on cholesterol medications, monthly expenditures on diabetic treatment and management medications, monthly expenditures on diabetic neuropathy treatment such as electromyogram testing, medications like gabapentin and pregabalin, and tricyclic antidepressants, weekly and annual expenditures on dialysis treatments, annual expenditures on vascular stents, annual expenditures on gastroesophageal reflux, annual expenditures on diagnostic sleep studies and CPAP machines for sleep apnea, and annual expenditures on degenerative joint pain and osteoarthritis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Group Benefits shall report its findings to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than January 1, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief executive officer of the Office of Group Benefits.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE