

HB 82 -- Prevention and Management of Obesity

Sponsor: Bland

This bill establishes the Missouri Commission on the Prevention and Management of Obesity within the Department of Health and Senior Services. The duties of the commission include:

- (1) Collecting and analyzing data on the extent to which Missourians suffer from obesity;
- (2) Listing programs and services available to address the needs of overweight children and adults;
- (3) Listing funds dedicated to maintain these programs;
- (4) Collecting and analyzing data about the economic impact on the state of the failure to treat obesity;
- (5) Identifying barriers to the prevention and management of obesity;
- (6) Identifying recommendations that the state must implement to increase obesity prevention and management;
- (7) Coordinating with specified federal and state agencies to share resources and information about a comprehensive approach to preventing and treating obesity and obesity-related disorders; and
- (8) Submitting a report to the Governor, the House of Representatives Budget Committee, and the Senate Appropriations Committee no later than August 28, 2007, including proposed legislation and information about the economic burden of obesity, available programs and services, and barriers to programs and services.

The composition of the 22-member commission is outlined, and the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services will serve as the chair. The commission must have its first meeting no later than October 1, 2005.

The department is required to establish and maintain a resource databank containing information about obesity and obesity-related subjects. The databank must be available to the general public and be accessible through the department's web site. The department may also provide technical assistance to schools and school districts to create a healthy school nutrition environment.

The bill contains an emergency clause.