

HB 1731 -- Prevention and Management of Obesity

Sponsor: Brown (50)

This bill establishes the Missouri Commission on 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 health, mental health, and social services needs of overweight children and adults;
- (3) Identifying moneys dedicated through commercial and self-insurers, Medicaid, and other federal and state moneys to maintain these programs;
- (4) Collecting and analyzing data about the economic impact on the state for the failure to treat obesity;
- (5) Identifying cultural, environmental, and socioeconomic barriers to the prevention and management of obesity;
- (6) Making recommendations that the state must implement to increase obesity prevention and management and providing the estimated cost of the implementation;
- (7) Coordinating with specified federal and state agencies to share resources and information to ensure a comprehensive approach to preventing and treating obesity and obesity-related conditions; and
- (8) Submitting a report to the Governor, House of Representatives Budget Committee, and Senate Appropriations Committee no later than August 28, 2012, on proposed legislation and information about the economic burden of obesity, available programs and services, and barriers to the programs and services.

The composition of the 22-member commission is specified which includes two members from the House of Representatives and the Senate appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem of the Senate. 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, 2010, and will be abolished August 28, 2012.

The department is required to establish and maintain a resource databank containing information about obesity and obesity-related

subjects. The databank must be available by January 1, 2011, to educational and research institutions, physicians, hospitals, policy makers, and the general public and be accessible through the department's web site and printed materials. The department may also provide technical assistance to schools and school districts to create healthy school nutrition environments.

The bill contains an emergency clause.