

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 579

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO URGE AND REQUEST THE MISSISSIPPI
2 COUNCIL ON OBESITY PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT TO STUDY HEALTH
3 INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY, INCLUDING THE
4 COMPILATION OF DATA ON THE TREATMENT OF SEVERE OR MORBID OBESITY
5 THROUGH BARIATRIC SURGERY.

6 WHEREAS, obesity is the most significant nutritional disorder
7 affecting health in the industrialized world; and

8 WHEREAS, obesity is a serious medical problem affecting up to
9 one-third of all Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, a 1997 Kaiser Permanente study concluded that there
11 is a significant potential for a reduction in health care
12 expenditures through obesity prevention; and

13 WHEREAS, obesity is known to cause or exacerbate a number of
14 serious disorders, including hypertension, dyslipidemia,
15 cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory dysfunction, gout
16 and osteoarthritis; and

17 WHEREAS, nearly 80% of patients with diabetes mellitus are
18 obese; and

19 WHEREAS, nearly 70% of diagnosed cases of cardiovascular
20 disease are related to obesity; and

21 WHEREAS, obesity ranks second only to smoking as a
22 preventable cause of death, with 300,000 deaths annually
23 attributable to obesity; and

24 WHEREAS, education, prevention and proper treatment of
25 obesity can reduce health care costs and improve the quality of
26 life for a significant number of adults and children in
27 Mississippi and across the United States:

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
29 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
30 we do hereby urge and request the Mississippi Council on Obesity
31 Prevention and Management, created and empowered under Section
32 41-101-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, to collect data on individual
33 cases of obesity in order to evaluate whether health insurance
34 coverage for the treatment of obesity should be mandated in this
35 state. This analysis shall include a comprehensive study and
36 recommendation as to the advisability of requiring health
37 insurance coverage of medically necessary bariatric surgery for
38 treatment of clinically severe obesity as a cost effective
39 alternative to long-term treatment of the condition. This
40 analysis shall include a comprehensive study of the treatment of
41 cases of severe or morbid obesity in Mississippi. The council is
42 urged and requested to complete its study and make
43 recommendations, including necessary legislation, to the 2006
44 Regular Session of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2006,
45 to aid in the prevention and treatment of obesity and ways to
46 decrease the number of cases of obesity in the state.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
48 transmitted to the State Health Officer, the Chairman of the
49 Mississippi Council on Obesity Prevention and Management, and be
50 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.