

By Senator Peadar

2-885-06

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2                   An act relating to the prevention of obesity;  
3                   amending s. 381.0054, F.S.; requiring the  
4                   Department of Health to collaborate with other  
5                   state agencies in developing policies and  
6                   strategies to prevent obesity which shall be  
7                   incorporated into agency programs; requiring  
8                   the department to advise health care  
9                   practitioners regarding morbidity, mortality,  
10                  and costs associated with the conditions of  
11                  being overweight or obese; requiring the  
12                  department to inform health care practitioners  
13                  about clinical best practices for obesity  
14                  prevention and to encourage practitioners to  
15                  counsel their patients regarding the adoption  
16                  of healthy lifestyles; providing an  
17                  appropriation; providing an effective date.

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19                  WHEREAS, in 2003, 14 percent of high school students  
20                  were at risk of being overweight and an additional 12.4  
21                  percent were overweight, and

22                  WHEREAS, in 2003, more than 50 percent of high school  
23                  students did not participate in any physical education at  
24                  school, and

25                  WHEREAS, in 2003, only approximately 20.7 percent of  
26                  high school students in this state ate five or more servings  
27                  of fruits or vegetables each day in a 7-day period, and

28                  WHEREAS, in 2003, 42.7 percent of high school students  
29                  watched television for 3 or more hours on an average school  
30                  day, and

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1           WHEREAS, in 2003, 39.9 percent of middle school  
2 students did not go to physical education classes at all  
3 during an average school week, and

4           WHEREAS, in 2003, on an average school day, 45.3  
5 percent of middle school students watched television for 3 or  
6 more hours, 18.2 percent used the computer for fun for 3 or  
7 more hours, and 14.8 percent reported playing video games for  
8 3 or more hours, and

9           WHEREAS, in 2003, only 11.3 percent of middle school  
10 students reported eating five or more servings of fruits and  
11 vegetables per day, and

12           WHEREAS, approximately 60 percent of overweight  
13 children have at least one risk factor for cardiovascular  
14 disease such as high blood pressure or high cholesterol, and  
15 about 25 percent of overweight children have two or more risk  
16 factors, and

17           WHEREAS, 25 percent of adults and children are obese  
18 and 15 million Americans are morbidly obese, and

19           WHEREAS, obesity as a cause of death is preventable and  
20 20,000 Floridians die annually from obesity-related diseases,  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, obesity-related medical expenditures for  
23 adults in this state total more than \$3.9 billion yearly, with  
24 over half of the costs being financed by Medicare and  
25 Medicaid, NOW, THEREFORE,

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27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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29           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 381.0054, Florida  
30 Statutes, is amended to read:

31           381.0054 Healthy lifestyles promotion.--

1           (1) The Department of Health shall promote healthy  
2 lifestyles to reduce the prevalence of excess weight gain  
3 ~~overweight~~ and obesity in Florida by implementing appropriate  
4 physical activity and nutrition programs that are directed  
5 towards ~~target~~ all Floridians by:

6           (a) Using all appropriate media to promote maximum  
7 public awareness of the latest research on healthy lifestyles  
8 and chronic diseases and disseminating relevant information  
9 through a statewide clearinghouse relating to wellness,  
10 physical activity, and nutrition and their impact on chronic  
11 diseases and disabling conditions.

12           (b) Providing technical assistance, training, and  
13 resources on healthy lifestyles and chronic diseases to the  
14 public, county health departments, health care providers,  
15 school districts, and other persons or entities, including  
16 faith-based organizations, which ~~that~~ request such assistance  
17 to promote physical activity, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle  
18 programs.

19           (c) Developing, implementing, and using all available  
20 research methods to collect data, including, but not limited  
21 to, population-specific data, and track the incidence and  
22 effects of weight gain, obesity, and related chronic diseases.  
23 The department shall include an evaluation and data collection  
24 component in all programs as appropriate.

25           (d) Partnering with the Department of Education, local  
26 communities, school districts, and other entities to encourage  
27 Florida schools to promote activities during and after school  
28 to help students meet a minimum goal of 60 minutes of activity  
29 per day.

30           (e) Partnering with the Department of Education,  
31 school districts, and the Florida Sports Foundation to develop

1 a program that recognizes schools whose students demonstrate  
2 excellent physical fitness or fitness improvement.

3 (f) Collaborating with other state agencies to develop  
4 policies and strategies for preventing obesity, which shall be  
5 incorporated into programs administered by each agency and  
6 shall include promoting healthy lifestyles of employees of  
7 each agency.

8 (g) Advising, in accordance with s. 456.081, health  
9 care practitioners licensed in this state regarding the  
10 morbidity, mortality, and costs associated with the conditions  
11 of being overweight or obese, informing such practitioners of  
12 clinical best practices for preventing obesity, and  
13 encouraging practitioners to counsel their patients regarding  
14 the adoption of healthy lifestyles.

15 (h)(f) Maximizing all local, state, and federal  
16 funding sources, including grants, public-private  
17 partnerships, and other mechanisms, to strengthen the  
18 department's current physical activity and nutrition programs  
19 and to enhance similar county health department programs.

20 Section 2. The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated from  
21 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health for the  
22 purpose of implementing s. 381.0054, Florida Statutes, during  
23 the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.  
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SENATE SUMMARY

Requires the Department of Health to collaborate with other state agencies to develop policies and strategies for incorporation into their programs to prevent obesity. Requires the department to advise health care practitioners regarding morbidity, mortality, and costs associated with the conditions of being overweight or obese. Requires the department to inform health care practitioners about best practices for obesity prevention and to encourage practitioners to counsel their patients regarding the adoption of healthy lifestyles. Provides an appropriation.