

## Senate Resolution 960

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Price of the 56th, Mullis of the 53rd, Unterman of the 45th and Harp of the 16th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Create a Senate Study Committee on Childhood Obesity in Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the prevalence of obesity among children has doubled in the past two decades,  
3 now affecting one in four children in the United States; and
- 4 WHEREAS, in Georgia, 30 percent of middle school students aged 11 to 14 and 26.7 percent  
5 of high school students aged 14 to 18 are overweight or at risk for being overweight; and
- 6 WHEREAS, childhood obesity is related to serious health problems such as Type 2 diabetes,  
7 hypertension, asthma, depression, and other chronic conditions; and
- 8 WHEREAS, it is estimated that unless this epidemic is addressed in children, one in three  
9 United States children who were born in 2000 will develop Type 2 diabetes; and
- 10 WHEREAS, while experts agree that poor diet and physical inactivity are the main  
11 contributing factors for the rise in obesity, only 68 percent of middle school students and 59  
12 percent of high school students in Georgia are vigorously active, and only 17 percent of high  
13 school students eat the recommended "five-a-day" servings of fruits and vegetables; and
- 14 WHEREAS, it is of vital importance and in the best interest of the people of the state to  
15 address the problem of childhood obesity and its many causative factors and improve  
16 nutrition, increase opportunities for physical activity, promote awareness, and support  
17 prevention strategies to protect Georgia's children and our economic future.
- 18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
19 Study Committee on Childhood Obesity in Georgia to be composed of five members of the  
20 Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Assignments. The Governor shall  
21 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall  
22 call all meetings of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
2 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
3 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
4 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
5 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
6 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
7 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative  
8 committees but shall receive the same for not more than ten days unless additional days are  
9 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
10 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its  
11 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report  
12 shall be made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished on  
13 December 31, 2004.