

Senate Resolution 650

By: Senator Balfour of the 9th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Community Health to develop and establish educational programs  
2 for consumers, patients, and health care providers regarding diabetes and take other actions  
3 to reduce the rate of diabetes and its complications; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, diabetes is a chronic disease for which there is currently no known cure, and  
5 it is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, individuals with Type 1 diabetes cannot produce any of their own insulin or  
7 amylin, hormones needed to help regulate sugar and food stores in the body; and

8 WHEREAS, individuals with Type 2, or adult onset, diabetes cannot produce enough of their  
9 own insulin or amylin and often do not exhibit symptoms in the early stages of the disease;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the serious, long-term complications of high blood sugar levels may include  
12 blindness, lower-extremity amputation, heart disease, kidney failure, and premature death;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, in recent years, the number of individuals diagnosed with diabetes has increased  
15 by 41 percent; and

16 WHEREAS, nine out of ten individuals who are newly diagnosed with adult onset diabetes  
17 also suffer from obesity; and

18 WHEREAS, America is facing a diabetes epidemic, as an estimated 20.8 million Americans  
19 are living with the disease nation-wide; and

20 WHEREAS, diabetes is a leading health problem in Georgia, with an estimated 616,000 adult  
21 residents currently living with the disease; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia's diabetes prevalence rate of 8.3 percent exceeds the national  
2 prevalence rate of 7 percent of the population; and

3 WHEREAS, the keys to reducing the incidence of, and complications associated with,  
4 diabetes are education, early detection, control, and proper treatment; and

5 WHEREAS, the earlier a person is diagnosed with diabetes and receives treatment, the better  
6 the person's chances are for avoiding diabetes complications; and

7 WHEREAS, the first line of treatment recommended by all treatment standards is diet and  
8 exercise; a healthy diet and the loss of excess weight can have a positive impact on the  
9 body's ability to fight off disease; and

10 WHEREAS, it has been shown that modest weight loss may help to lower blood sugar, blood  
11 pressure, and improve the level of fats in the bloodstream, which are beneficial to the  
12 treatment of diabetes and other metabolic diseases; and

13 WHEREAS, traditionally, those at highest risk include older citizens who have a family  
14 history of the disease and who are overweight; however, in recent years, there has been an  
15 alarming increase in the number of younger people who are being diagnosed with diabetes,  
16 which is attributed to unhealthy lifestyles and excessive body mass.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Department of  
18 Community Health is urged to develop and establish educational programs for consumers,  
19 patients, and health care providers in order to reduce the rate of diabetes and its  
20 complications among high-risk populations, to encourage individuals to seek early screening  
21 and early treatment, to encourage health care providers to improve care for the control of  
22 diabetes and the treatment of major complications, to adopt generally recognized clinical  
23 practice guidelines such as the American Diabetes Association goals, recommendations, and  
24 standards that identify the reduction of body mass index (BMI), cardiovascular risk issues,  
25 and glycemic control as key factors to managing diabetes, and to engage in an aggressive  
26 prevention and treatment program of diabetes with Medicaid patients and those in the State  
27 Health Insurance Program, including dietary counseling and exercise, measurements of body  
28 weight, and other associated risk factors.