

House Resolution 826

By: Representatives Dollar of the 45th, Cooper of the 41st, Hudson of the 124th, Lunsford of the 110th, and Stephenson of the 92nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating a House Study Committee on Trans Fat Alternatives for the Georgia Food Industry;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, approximately 80 million Americans, or about one in three adults, have one or
4 more types of cardiovascular diseases (CVD); and

5 WHEREAS, CVD continues to be the most prevalent cause of morbidity and mortality in the
6 United States; and

7 WHEREAS, every year since 1900, except 1918, CVD has accounted for more deaths than
8 any other single cause or group of causes of death; and

9 WHEREAS, on average, over 17,000 people die of CVD related illness each year in Georgia;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, on average, 59 percent of the adult population in Georgia is considered to be
12 overweight or obese, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control; and

13 WHEREAS, overweight and obesity are well-established risk factors for CVD; and

14 WHEREAS, partially hydrogenated oils and shortenings are widely used ingredients and
15 preservatives within the food industry which typically contain dangerously high levels of
16 artificially generated trans fats; and

17 WHEREAS, trans fats used in various cooking methods have been scientifically proven to
18 cause significant decreases in beneficial HDL cholesterol levels while dramatically
19 increasing detrimental LDL cholesterol in those that consume them; and

1 WHEREAS, those that consume diets high in trans fats have been statistically shown to be
2 at higher risk for other critical indicators for CVD, such as hardening of the arteries,
3 blockage of arteries, insulin resistance, and type 2 diabetes; and

4 WHEREAS, despite the dangers associated with consumption of food products containing
5 significant amounts of trans fats, there are currently no disclosure requirements for, or limits
6 to, the amounts of trans fats used in various cooking methods employed by public school
7 cafeterias, restaurants, or bakeries producing food products which are not packaged and
8 therefore not subject to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling guidelines which
9 became effective January 1, 2006; and

10 WHEREAS, due to the aforementioned lack of regulation and oversight with regard to
11 disclosure of trans fat content, the general public is largely unaware of the actual amounts
12 of trans fats present in foods being sold by certain restaurants and bakeries; and

13 WHEREAS, dietary guidelines published by the United States Department of Agriculture
14 (USDA) suggest that the food industry has an important role in decreasing the trans fatty acid
15 content of the food supply; and

16 WHEREAS, suitable cost-effective alternatives for partially hydrogenated oils have been
17 identified and approved for use in the segment of the food industry which produces foods not
18 currently subject to the aforementioned FDA labeling regulations.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 there is created the House Study Committee on Trans Fat Alternatives for the Georgia Food
21 Industry to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed
22 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives shall designate a member of the House who shall serve as chairperson of the
24 committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the current use
26 of trans fats in Georgia's food industry and public school system, the scope of which shall
27 include the following:

28 (1) The committee shall be charged with examining the feasibility of state-wide
29 restrictions on the use of artificial trans fats and products that contain them in public
30 schools and restaurants that are not otherwise subject to the current Food and Drug
31 Administration's regulation;

- 1 (2) The committee shall hear from industry experts and key leaders concerned with this
2 issue and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or
3 appropriate. The committee is encouraged to hear testimony from State of Georgia public
4 health officials, health organizations, food industry representatives, restaurant vendors and
5 suppliers, state school board officials, representatives from other states or municipalities
6 that have instituted restrictions on the use of trans fats, or any other entities that the
7 committee deems necessary; and
- 8 (3) Due diligence should be exercised when evaluating potential alternatives to products
9 containing trans fats so as to avoid any unintended negative health consequences caused
10 by said alternatives.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
12 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
13 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
14 of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for
15 in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances
16 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more
17 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the
18 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of
19 Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
20 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
21 made on or before December 31, 2007. The committee shall stand abolished on December
22 31, 2007.