

## House Resolution 1302

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, and Newton of the 123<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Chronic Weight Management and Type 2 Diabetes;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there are more than 3.1 million people living with chronic weight management  
4 issues in Georgia, and more than 50 percent will develop diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea,  
5 gallbladder disease, and other health issues related to chronic weight management; and

6 WHEREAS, healthcare for this population has been shown to cost significantly more than  
7 healthcare for the normal weight population, and this population tends to miss significantly  
8 more days of work; and

9 WHEREAS, according to a 2017 study on the state of chronic weight management in  
10 Georgia, the adult obesity rate is 30.7 percent, which ranks 19th highest in the nation. This  
11 represents an over 10 percent increase from the year 2000 and a 20 percent increase from  
12 1990. Childhood obesity (ages 2-4) currently ranks 36th in the nation at 13 percent; and

13 WHEREAS, complications from obesity may lead to diabetes and hypertension, which  
14 totaled more than 2.4 million combined cases; and

15 WHEREAS, at its current rate of growth, individuals with either hypertension or diabetes  
16 will culminate to exceed more than 3.4 million (1,119,425 projected diabetes cases;  
17 2,285,570 projected hypertension cases); and

18 WHEREAS, obesity is one of the major risk factors associated with Type 2 diabetes  
19 diagnoses, along with tobacco use, physical inactivity, high cholesterol and blood pressure,  
20 poor nutrition, and heart disease; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, more than one in ten  
22 residents live with diabetes in Georgia, totaling over one million people; and

23 WHEREAS, Type 2 diabetes accounts for 90-95 percent of all diabetes cases, which could  
24 place Type 2 cases in Georgia at approximately 900,000 people or more. An estimated 6.5  
25 percent of Georgians with diabetes have not been tested and are unaware they have the  
26 disease; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2015, the Georgia Department of Public Health constructed a Georgia  
28 Diabetes Action Plan that demonstrates the health and financial burden this disease places  
29 on the state; and

30 WHEREAS, Type 2 diabetes may be called "adult-onset diabetes" and can be controlled with  
31 diet and exercise; however, individuals diagnosed may need to receive oral medications or  
32 other forms of treatment; and

33 WHEREAS, Type 2 diabetes is most common in older persons who are overweight, have a  
34 family history, or have a history of gestational diabetes; and

35 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to understand and demonstrate the health implications  
36 of chronic weight management and Type 2 diabetes, the cost associated with the diseases,  
37 and the various health treatments available to reduce this epidemic in Georgia and to further  
38 promote the use of data to influence decision making to better understand the cost savings  
39 for prevention of chronic weight management and Type 2 diabetes.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
41 GEORGIA:

42 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on  
43 Chronic Weight Management and Type 2 Diabetes.

44 (2) **Members and officers.**

45 (A) The committee shall be composed of ten members.

46 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the  
47 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
48 members as cochairperson. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also  
49 appoint an additional member of the committee who is a licensed physician.

50 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members  
51 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. The  
52 President of the Senate shall also appoint an additional member of the committee who  
53 is an obesity expert.

54 (D) The commissioner of community health, or his or her designee, shall be a member  
55 of the committee.

56 (E) The commissioner of public health, or his or her designee, shall be a member of the  
57 committee.

58 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
59 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
60 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

61 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The  
62 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem  
63 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform  
64 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

65 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

66 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided  
67 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

68 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
69 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,  
70 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their  
71 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for  
72 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

73 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
74 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
75 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
76 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
77 employees.

78 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received  
79 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are  
80 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
81 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate; except that funds  
82 for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members,  
83 and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to  
84 their respective agencies.

85 (6) **Report.**

86 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
87 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the  
88 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
89 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

90 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
91 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to  
92 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

93 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
94 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

95 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed  
96 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

97 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk  
98 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes  
99 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

100 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.