

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 15

Joint resolution requesting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the federal Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion to establish new sugar consumption recommendations

Offered by: Representatives Zagar of Barnard, Pearson of Burlington, Bartholomew of Hartland, Ryerson of Randolph, Till of Jericho, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Whereas, health conditions associated with the overconsumption of sugar are a leading cause of disease in the United States and contribute to substantial health care costs and associated productivity-related expenses, and

Whereas, excessive sugar in the American diet is a significant contributing factor in the development of adverse health conditions, such as type II diabetes, heart disease, obesity, tooth decay, cancer, hypertension, and liver toxicity, among others, and

Whereas, the total cost of diabetes in the United States rose from \$174 billion in 2007 to \$245 billion in 2012, a 41 percent increase over the five-year period, and

Whereas, nearly 10 percent of Americans have diabetes, and the numbers continue to rise, and

Whereas, in approximately 1980, there were no documented cases of children with type II diabetes, but now more than 50,000 children in America have been diagnosed with the disease, and the number of adults developing type II diabetes has risen substantially, and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicts that by the year 2050 the number of teen diabetics will increase by nearly 50 percent to more than 84,000, and

Whereas, obesity may surpass tobacco addiction as the leading preventable public health problem facing Vermonters, and

Whereas, according to the Vermont Department of Health, 62 percent of adults in Vermont and 29 percent of children are either overweight or obese, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont spends an estimated \$615 million each year treating obesity-related health conditions and associated productivity-related expenses, and

Whereas, health care spending in Vermont, as a percentage of its gross domestic product, rose from over 10 percent in 1992 to almost 20 percent in 2012, and

Whereas, approximately 80 percent of processed foods contain added sugar that, in its various forms, appear on package ingredient lists using many different names, and sugar is often added to processed foods where it would not be expected, and a discerning consumer may be totally unaware of the presence or amount of sugar in a processed food item, and

Whereas, the per capita daily consumption of sugar in the United States greatly exceeds the amount that public health authorities at the World Health Organization, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the American Heart Association, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recommend, and

Whereas, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is proposing to update the Nutrition Facts labeling information printed on food products' packaging, but is not currently proposing that the recommended amount of daily sugar consumption be listed, and

Whereas, in 2015, the USDA in coordination with HHS' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) are issuing a revision of their Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and

Whereas, this revision offers an opportunity for updating the Guidelines' sugar consumption recommendations, based in part on the latest information from the World Health Organization, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges the FDA to initiate administrative proceedings to include recommended daily sugar consumption as part of its Nutrition Facts, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly urges the USDA and HHS through the ODPHP to include updated sugar consumption recommendations in the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the FDA and to the ODPHP, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, Governor Peter Shumlin, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the Department of Health.