

**HJR163 ENROLLED**



1 VBXMPV-2  
2 By Representative Oliver  
3 RFD: RULES  
4 First Read: 04-May-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4           CREATING THE CHRONIC WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND TYPE 2  
5 DIABETES TASK FORCE.

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7           WHEREAS, obesity and type 2 diabetes are significant  
8 health challenges in Alabama, which has the seventh highest  
9 adult obesity rate and the 12th highest childhood obesity  
10 rate in the nation; Alabama also has the third highest  
11 prevalence of diabetes in the nation, at 14 percent; the  
12 prevalence of diabetes has increased steadily since 1990,  
13 when only 6.1 percent of Alabamians had diabetes; today, all  
14 but one of Alabama's 67 counties have a rate of diabetes  
15 prevalence above the national average of 10.5 percent; and

16           WHEREAS, according to the Alabama Department of  
17 Public Health, many people in Alabama have diabetes but do  
18 not know that they have it; diabetes may be treated with  
19 changes in diet and exercise, if the condition is detected  
20 in its early stages; diabetes takes an especially heavy toll  
21 on the black American population and the elderly and is  
22 especially prevalent in rural areas, which make up a large  
23 portion of this state; and

24           WHEREAS, obesity and type 2 diabetes have been  
25 identified as significant risk factors for severe disease  
26 and mortality due to a variety of health issues, including  
27 COVID-19; complications from obesity may lead to diabetes,  
28 hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and many other



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29 comorbidities; obesity is the leading risk factor for type 2  
30 diabetes, which accounts for 90 to 95 percent of all  
31 diabetes cases; and

32 WHEREAS, rural areas across the United States,  
33 including in Alabama, have experienced deadly outbreaks of  
34 COVID-19, fueled in part by the high rates of obesity and  
35 diabetes found in these areas; of the six Alabama counties  
36 designated as "very high risk" for COVID-19 mortality, four  
37 were rural; these counties have an average obesity rate of  
38 31 percent; and

39 WHEREAS, high rates of obesity and diabetes among  
40 various demographics in Alabama reflect significant health  
41 disparities that lead to increased vulnerability to COVID-19  
42 and many other conditions; approximately 45 percent of black  
43 Alabamians experience obesity, and 17.3 percent have  
44 diabetes - the highest percentages of any racial or ethnic  
45 group in the state for either disease; and

46 WHEREAS, addressing underlying conditions such as  
47 obesity and diabetes may improve outcomes for those facing  
48 COVID-19; a recently developed simulation model, using data  
49 from peer-reviewed studies as well as real-time COVID-19  
50 statistics, demonstrated that if the national prevalence of  
51 obesity at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic had been  
52 reduced by 25 percent from an overall rate of 40 percent to  
53 30 percent, hospitalizations would have been reduced by 6.8  
54 percent, admissions to intensive care units would have been  
55 reduced by 10.7 percent, and mortality would have been  
56 reduced by 11.4 percent across all demographic groups; these



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57 effects would have been particularly pronounced among  
58 diverse populations, including black Americans and Hispanic  
59 or Latino Americans, who are disproportionately impacted by  
60 obesity, diabetes, and COVID-19; and

61 WHEREAS, for the reasons described above, it would be  
62 beneficial to understand and demonstrate the health  
63 implications of chronic weight management and type 2  
64 diabetes, the costs associated with the diseases and the  
65 various health treatments available to reduce this epidemic  
66 in Alabama, the cost savings of prevention and reduction in  
67 rates of obesity and type 2 diabetes, and to further promote  
68 the use of data to influence decision-making; now therefore,

69 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
70 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Chronic  
71 Weight Management and Type 2 Diabetes Task Force to study  
72 the health implications of chronic weight management and  
73 type 2 diabetes.

74 (a) The task force shall be composed of the following  
75 members:

76 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives  
77 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

78 (2) One member of the House of Representatives  
79 appointed by the House Minority Leader.

80 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the  
81 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

82 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Senate  
83 Minority Leader.

84 (5) One licensed certified endocrinologist appointed by



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85 the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.

86 (6) One obesity expert certified by the American Board  
87 of Obesity Medicine and appointed by the Board of Medical  
88 Examiners.

89 (7) The Chief Executive Officer of the State Employees'  
90 Insurance Board or his or her designee.

91 (8) The Chief Executive Officer of the Public Education  
92 Employees' Health Insurance Board or his or her designee.

93 (9) A representative of the business community  
94 representing a business employing at least 500 people in  
95 Alabama to be appointed by the Chair of the House Health  
96 Committee.

97 (10) A representative of the business community  
98 representing a business with fewer than 50 employees or from  
99 a trade association whose members are primarily businesses  
100 with fewer than 50 employees to be appointed by the Chair of  
101 the Senate Health Committee.

102 (11) A medical doctor practicing Weight Loss Medicine,  
103 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

104 (12) The State Health Officer or his or her designee.

105 (13) The task force may add members as it sees fit by a  
106 majority vote of task force members.

107 (b) All appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
108 appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and  
109 geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this  
110 state.

111 (c) The task force shall have two co-chairs. One of the  
112 co-chairs shall be one of the members appointed by the



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113 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the other shall  
114 be one of the members appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
115 of the Senate. The appointing authorities shall indicate  
116 which member shall serve as co-chair at the time of  
117 appointment.

118 (d) The first meeting of the task force shall be held  
119 at the unanimous call of the co-chairs and no later than  
120 December 30, 2023. The task force may then meet as necessary  
121 to conduct its business.

122 (e) The task force shall have both of the following  
123 duties:

124 (1) To study the health implications of chronic weight  
125 management and type 2 diabetes, the costs associated with  
126 the diseases, and the various health treatments available to  
127 reduce the epidemic in this state caused by those diseases.

128 (2) To study how to promote the use of the data to  
129 influence decision-making to better understand the cost  
130 savings for prevention of obesity with chronic weight  
131 management and type 2 diabetes.

132 (f) (1) Each legislative member of the task force shall  
133 be entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation,  
134 per diem, and travel expenses for each day of attendance at  
135 a meeting of the task force in accordance with Section 49 of  
136 the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

137 (2) Other members of the commission may be reimbursed  
138 for necessary expenses in attending meetings of the  
139 commission according to policies and procedures of their  
140 respective appointing authorities.



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141 (g) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama  
142 1975, the commission shall provide the Secretary of State a  
143 notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on  
144 the commission, and a copy of its findings and other  
145 documents produced throughout the duration of the  
146 commission.

147 (h) No later than the fifteenth legislative day of the  
148 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature, the task force  
149 shall report its findings and recommendations to the Speaker  
150 of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore  
151 of the Senate, and the chairs of the appropriate legislative  
152 committees, at which time the task force shall be dissolved.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 11-MAY-23.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

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Senate

**17-May-23**

Adopted