

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

SCR 3

4
5 By: Senators Irvin, T. Garner
6 By: Representatives Wardlaw, Vaught, L. Fite

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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF HEALTHY ACTIVE ARKANSAS IN
10 COMBATING OBESITY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF HEALTHY ACTIVE
15 ARKANSAS IN COMBATING OBESITY.

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17 WHEREAS, more than one-third (1/3) of children, adolescents, and adults
18 are overweight or obese in the United States according to the 2016
19 "Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas: Year 13" and the
20 Trust for America's Health reports; and

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22 WHEREAS, overweight and obese individuals are more likely to be at risk
23 for cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and joint
24 problems; and

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26 WHEREAS, Arkansas improved its ranking for obesity from first in 2015
27 to sixth in 2016 among all the states, with the Arkansas obesity rate
28 dropping from thirty-five and nine-tenths percent (35.9%) to thirty-four and
29 five-tenths percent (34.5%) as reported by the Trust for America's Health;
30 and

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32 WHEREAS, reversing the epidemic of obesity will require investing in
33 prevention, making healthy choices an easier part of people's daily lives,
34 and targeting efforts in areas in which there are the greatest challenges;
35 and

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1 WHEREAS, according to the 2015 Healthy Active Arkansas Report, reducing
2 the average body mass index of Arkansans by five percent (5%) could lead to
3 health care savings of more than two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) in ten
4 (10) years and six billion dollars (\$6,000,000,000) in twenty (20) years,
5 while also preventing thousands of cases of stroke, coronary heart disease,
6 type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cancer; and

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8 WHEREAS, Healthy Active Arkansas is a comprehensive plan to address
9 these areas in a systematic manner that was initiated by leaders in the
10 public and private sector and was officially endorsed and launched in 2015 by
11 Governor Asa Hutchinson; and

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13 WHEREAS, Healthy Active Arkansas offers a framework for encouraging and
14 enabling healthier lifestyles in Arkansas with a “health in all policies”
15 approach that encompasses eight (8) priority areas: physical and built
16 environment; nutritional standards in government, institutions, and the
17 private sector; nutritional standards in schools, from early child care
18 through college; healthy worksites; access to healthy foods; sugar-sweetened
19 beverage reduction; breastfeeding; and a marketing program,

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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
23 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

24
25 THAT the General Assembly recognizes the importance of preventing
26 childhood and adulthood obesity and supports Healthy Active Arkansas and the
27 eight (8) priority areas to address the obesity epidemic.

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly encourages a “health
30 in all policies” approach with specific goals and activities aimed at
31 promoting healthy eating and physical activity and increasing awareness of
32 Arkansas obesity rates among all ages and walks of life.

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the
35 Secretary of the Senate shall mail a copy of this resolution to the Governor,
36 the Director of the Department of Health, and each member of the Arkansas

1 congressional delegation.

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