

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 74

Introduced by Assembly Member Dymally

December 4, 2006

An act to add Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 104250) to Part 1 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 74, as introduced, Dymally. University of California: obesity, diabetes, and related illness center.

Under existing law, the University of California is a public trust, administered by the Board of Regents.

This bill would request that the Regents of the University of California establish and administer an Institute for the Study of the Phenomenon of Obesity and Diabetes Experimental Research (PODER) at the University of California, Irvine, in coordination with the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, and establish and administer one or more clinics that are affiliated with the PODER Institute to focus on individuals or groups who suffer from obesity and diabetes, as defined.

The bill would express the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds in the Budget Act of 2007 in order to implement the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this
2 act, to do all of the following:

3 (a) Support expansion of scientific research on diabetes and
4 eating disorders, in particular obesity, and the impact on the health
5 of those who suffer with the diseases.

6 (b) Build upon existing research and develop research-based
7 information to guide effective medical, educational, and social
8 service intervention for individuals with diabetes and obesity.

9 (c) Inform state policymakers regarding health risks, health
10 education, and intervention programs serving individuals who
11 suffer from related illnesses.

12 (d) Ensure that research findings about successful interventions
13 for children and adults who suffer from obesity or diabetes, or
14 both, be disseminated statewide to inform training programs for
15 medical practitioners, educators, and social services providers.

16 (e) Ensure that information describing research and best practice
17 regarding the education of children and adults who suffer from
18 obesity or diabetes, or both, is accessible to parents and to adult
19 individuals with the diseases and their families.

20 SEC. 2. Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 104250) is
21 added to Part 1 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, to
22 read:

23
24 CHAPTER 4.5. OBESITY AND DIABETES
25

26 104250. (a) For the purposes of this chapter, the term “obesity”
27 refers to a condition that is characterized by excessive accumulation
28 and storage of fat in the body and that in an adult is typically
29 indicated by a body mass index of 30 or greater. Obesity is a
30 disease that affects nearly one-third of the adult American
31 population, totalling approximately 60 million people. Obesity is
32 a chronic disease with a strong familial component and increases
33 one’s risk of developing conditions such as high blood pressure,
34 diabetes (type 2), heart disease, stroke, gallbladder disease, and
35 cancer of the breast, prostate, and colon. The number of overweight
36 and obese Americans has continued to increase since 1960, a trend
37 that is not slowing down. Today, 64.5 percent of adult Americans,
38 or about 127 million people, are categorized as being overweight

1 or obese. Each year, obesity causes at least 300,000 excess deaths
2 in the United States, and health care costs of American adults with
3 obesity amount to approximately \$100 billion.

4 (b) For the purposes of this chapter, the term “diabetes” refers
5 to a disease in which a person has blood glucose levels that are
6 above normal. Diabetes mellitus of a common form that develops
7 especially in adults and most often in obese individuals and that
8 is characterized by hyperglycemia resulting from impaired insulin
9 utilization coupled with the body’s inability to compensate with
10 increased insulin production. In the digestive process most food
11 is turned into glucose, or sugar, for our bodies to use for energy.
12 The pancreas, an organ that lies near the stomach, makes a hormone
13 called insulin to help glucose reach the cells of our bodies. Diabetes
14 does either of two things:

15 (1) It prevents the body from making the proper amount of
16 insulin.

17 (2) It makes insulin inoperable and as a result, the body is not
18 able to regulate the amount of sugar built up in the blood stream.

19 Diabetes can also cause serious health complications including
20 heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, and lower-extremity
21 amputations and is the sixth leading cause of death in the United
22 States.

23 104255. The Regents of the University of California are hereby
24 requested to establish and administer an Institute for the
25 Phenomenon of Obesity and Diabetes Experimental Research
26 (PODER) at the University of California, Irvine, in coordination
27 with the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, to
28 promote and conduct basic science research on obesity and
29 diabetes, and to develop effective education and treatments.

30 104260. The Regents of the University of California are hereby
31 requested to establish and administer one or more clinics that are
32 affiliated with the PODER Institute to focus on individuals who
33 suffer from obesity, diabetes, and other related illnesses. It is
34 requested that the clinics do all of the following:

35 (a) Develop research-based information on assessment and
36 interventions.

37 (b) Develop information to inform public policymakers.

38 (c) Create a clearinghouse of information on research findings.

39 (d) Create model training programs for educators, medical
40 practitioners, and social services.

1 SEC. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature that funds be
2 appropriated in the Budget Act of 2007 in order to implement this
3 act.

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