



HR0984

LRB098 20754 GRL 57797 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Laxative abuse occurs when a person attempts to
3 get rid of unwanted calories, lose weight, "feel thin", or
4 "feel empty" through the repeated, frequent use of laxatives;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The belief that laxatives are effective for weight
7 control is a myth; and

8 WHEREAS, Often, laxatives are misused following eating
9 binges, when the individual mistakenly believes that the
10 laxatives will work to rush food and calories through the gut
11 and bowels before they can be absorbed; and

12 WHEREAS, Laxative abuse is serious and dangerous - often
13 resulting in a variety of health complications and sometimes
14 causing life-threatening conditions; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Mental
16 Health, 2.7% of American teens aged 13-18 suffer from a severe
17 eating disorder; and

18 WHEREAS, Research shows that 10 to 60% of people with
19 eating disorders also abuse laxatives; and

1 WHEREAS, According to a study done by the American Journal
2 of Psychiatry, mortality rates for eating disorders were 4% for
3 anorexia nervosa, 3.9% for bulimia nervosa, and 5.2% for eating
4 disorders not otherwise specified; and

5 WHEREAS, Teens who are expected to achieve significantly
6 low weights due to athletics have also been known to abuse
7 laxatives in order to reduce the water weight in their body
8 before performances and weigh-ins; and

9 WHEREAS, Laxatives as a drug have the properties of
10 tolerance and withdrawal, allowing users to become dependent on
11 them; and

12 WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration has issued a
13 warning about the use of sodium phosphate laxatives; and

14 WHEREAS, Overcoming laxative abuse requires working with a
15 team of health professionals who have expertise in treating
16 eating disorders, including a general physician, a
17 psychiatrist, psychologist or counselor, and a registered
18 dietician; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 there is created the Task Force on Laxative Abuse within the

1 Department of Human Services Division of Alcoholism and
2 Substance Abuse to develop a statewide plan to prevent the
3 abuse of laxatives, particularly among minors; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That the members of Task Force shall be appointed
6 by the Secretary of Human Services no later than July 1, 2014;
7 the Task Force shall include:

8 (1) the Director of the Department of Human Services
9 Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse or his or her
10 designee;

11 (2) the Director of the Department of Public Health or his
12 or her designee;

13 (3) the Superintendent of the State Board of Education or
14 his or her designee;

15 (4) two persons from families effected by eating disorders
16 or laxative abuse;

17 (5) two persons who are recovering from an eating disorder
18 or laxative abuse;

19 (6) two persons representing a national eating disorders
20 association;

21 (7) two persons representing statewide associations
22 representing nurses;

23 (8) two persons representing statewide education
24 associations;

25 (9) one person representing a statewide organization

1 representing pediatricians;
2 (10) one person representing a statewide organization
3 representing family physicians;
4 (11) one person representing a statewide organization
5 representing psychiatrists;
6 (12) one person representing a statewide association
7 representing retailers; and
8 (13) one person representing a statewide association
9 representing merchants; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Department of Human Services shall
11 facilitate the Task Force and provide the Task Force with
12 administrative support; the Department shall convene the Task
13 Force at least three times and issue a report with findings and
14 recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor no
15 later than January 1, 2015; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to the Governor and the Secretary of the Department
18 of Human Services.