

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 61% of Americans are overweight; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Surgeon General, in the last 20 years the number of overweight children has doubled and the number of overweight adolescents has tripled; and

WHEREAS, The causes of obesity have been linked to an increasing consumption of high-caloric processed foods with high levels of saturated fats and sugars combined with a decreasing amount of physical activity; and

WHEREAS, Nonfatal but debilitating effects of obesity include respiratory difficulty, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, chronic musculoskeletal problems, skin problems, and infertility; and

WHEREAS, Potentially life-threatening effects of obesity include cardiovascular disease including hypertension and stroke, conditions associated with insulin resistance such as Type 2 diabetes mellitus, breast cancer, colon cancer, and gallbladder disease; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

7-401.

(a) With the assistance of the county health department, each county board shall provide:

- (1) Adequate school health services;
- (2) Instruction in health education, INCLUDING THE IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN MAINTAINING GOOD HEALTH; and
- (3) A healthful school environment.

7-409.

Each public school shall have a program of physical education that is given in a planned and sequential manner to all students, kindergarten through grade 12, to develop their good health and physical fitness and improve their motor coordination and physical skills.

7-421.

~~(A) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A NUTRITION POLICY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2006, THAT APPLIES TO ALL FOODS AND BEVERAGES MADE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, INCLUDING FOODS AND BEVERAGES SOLD:~~

- ~~(1) IN VENDING MACHINES;~~