AN ACT creating the task force on obesity prevention and management.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) There is hereby created the Kansas task force on obesity prevention and management, hereinafter referred to as the “task force,” within the department of health and environment. In addition to any legislative appropriation, the task force may accept and expend grants and private donations from any source, including federal, state, public and private entities, to assist the task force to carry out the task force’s functions.

(b) The duties of the task force shall include, but not be limited to, conducting statewide meetings with students in grades four through 12 for discussions on obesity-related diseases and conditions including, but not limited to, diabetes, depression, low self-esteem and social discrimination. Following the discussions with students, the task force shall have meetings with school personnel to discuss how to better assist children of school age who may have early indicators of obesity. Such school personnel shall include, but not be limited to, teachers, administrators, counselors, food service staff and school nurses. Following the discussions with school personnel, the task force shall have meetings reaching out to the parents and civic leaders in the communities to discuss how each area could promote early prevention and management of obesity. Discussion shall include what parents and the communities could do to have access to affordable, effective prevention and management services. After all meetings and discussions have occurred, the task force shall establish recommendations for changes to statewide elementary and secondary education curricula to implement comprehensive, coordinated obesity awareness and education programs and for community projects to promote obesity awareness and education programs.

(c) The task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than August 1, 2011. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the task force shall be appointed by the secretary of health and environment. The department of health and environment shall provide such administrative assistance as may be requested by the task force. The task force may adopt such rules of procedure as are necessary to facilitate orderly
conduct of its business.

(d) The task force shall submit a report, including proposed legislation if necessary, to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate, on or before November 1, 2012. Such report shall include a comprehensive state plan for implementation of services and programs in the state of Kansas to increase prevention and management of the disease of obesity in children and an estimate of the cost of implementation of such a plan.

(e) All departments, boards, agencies, officers and institutions of the state and all subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the task force in carrying out its purposes pursuant to this act.

(f) All members shall be reimbursed for necessary and actual expenses incurred for traveling and subsistence in the performance of serving on the task force.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.