

House Resolution No. 6026

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

3-28

1 A RESOLUTION requesting the Kansas Department of Health and
2 Environment to conduct a study regarding tobacco harm reduction.

3
4 WHEREAS, States have pursued for decades policies intended to
5 encourage citizens who smoke to quit, and to discourage others who do
6 not smoke from starting; and

7 WHEREAS, While cigarette smoking rates have declined substantially
8 over the period from 1965-2004, the rate of decline has slowed in recent
9 years and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that
10 approximately 19% of Americans continue to smoke cigarettes, which
11 remain the most popular form of tobacco in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, While cigarettes are the most popular form of tobacco,
13 questions have been raised with regards to the relative risk of various
14 forms of tobacco; and

15 WHEREAS, While no tobacco product has been shown to be safe,
16 questions have been raised whether smokeless tobacco might present less
17 risk of disease and premature death than cigarettes; and

18 WHEREAS, Numerous public health organizations, such as the
19 Institute of Medicine, the American Council on Science and Health, the
20 Royal College of Physicians and the World Health Organization have
21 recognized that there is a continuum of risk among tobacco product types,
22 and that the risks associated with cigarette use are substantially higher
23 than those associated with the use of non-combustible products; and

24 WHEREAS, While abstaining from all tobacco is clearly the best,
25 most effective way for smokers to reduce their risk of disease and
26 premature death, it is appropriate for the health community to consider
27 whether those who will not abstain can reduce their risk of disease and
28 premature death by switching from cigarettes to other tobacco products;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Research shows that 85% of U.S. smokers are unaware
31 that smokeless tobacco products might present less risk than cigarettes;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, The risk of death and disease associated with the use of
34 smokeless tobacco products has been argued by some health researchers
35 to be at least 90% less than the health risks associated with cigarette
36 smoking; and

1 WHEREAS, The states of Kentucky and Indiana have previously
2 recognized the concept of relative risk of tobacco products; and

3 WHEREAS, The public can only make wise health choices about their
4 behavior when they have access to adequate and accurate health risk
5 information regarding tobacco products or other health issues: Now,
6 therefore,

7 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Kansas:*
8 That the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) should
9 undertake an analysis and study of the subject known as Tobacco Harm
10 Reduction (THR) and should determine whether THR should be included
11 as one component of a comprehensive tobacco control strategy,
12 complementing current efforts to increase smoking cessation and reduce
13 smoking initiation; and

14 *Be it further resolved:* That KDHE report back to the 2013 Legislature
15 regarding the following issues:

16 1. The relative risk of death and disease from use of cigarettes
17 versus non-combustible (smokeless) tobacco products;

18 2. Whether the state of Kansas should further explore efforts to
19 promote the concept of Tobacco Harm Reduction if KDHE determines
20 that there is significantly less risk of disease or death resulting from use
21 of smokeless tobacco products versus cigarettes;

22 3. Whether the public is entitled to know and would benefit from an
23 awareness of accurate information regarding the relative health risks from
24 use of smokeless tobacco products versus cigarettes;

25 4. Whether the public would benefit from the state of Kansas
26 actively promoting release of accurate information regarding the relative
27 risk of disease and death from use of smokeless tobacco products versus
28 cigarettes; and

29 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of
30 Representatives shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the
31 Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment.
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