

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 07-52

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS

WHEREAS, the health of its citizens is vital to the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, physical fitness, recreation and sound nutrition are central components of a healthy, meaningful, and productive life; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, an estimated 60% of adults in Florida are overweight or obese and an estimated 25% of high school age children in the state are currently overweight or at risk of becoming overweight; and

WHEREAS, excess weight and sedentary lifestyles are associated with a majority of chronic diseases and disabling conditions in children, adults, and seniors, such as type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, promoting health and wellness by the state is an important part of encouraging all citizens to choose lifelong exercise and eating habits that combat obesity and reduce the risk of many chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, an increased emphasis in physical fitness will serve as a catalyst to shift the central focus of health care in the state from treating chronic diseases to preventing chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, a partnership among government, businesses, community organizations, and private citizens can accomplish the goal of improved physical fitness and health for all Floridians;

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has the unique potential to become a national leader in health, physical fitness, and outdoor living activities due to the abundance of award-winning beaches, state parks, greenways and trails;

NOW THEREFORE, I, CHARLIE CRIST, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Florida Constitution, and all other applicable laws, issue the following Executive Order, to take effect immediately:

Section 1.

The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness ("Council") is established to develop a state plan of action to increase physical fitness through regular exercise and sound nutrition practices among Floridians of all ages and to reduce the rate of obesity and resulting chronic diseases in Floridians within the next ten years.

Section 2.

The Council shall consist of 15-20 members appointed by the Governor. Members shall serve a term beginning on April 23, 2007 through July 23, 2008. All appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and the Governor may fill any vacancy that occurs. Membership of the Council shall reflect a broad spectrum of interested parties, including, but not limited to:

- a. Elementary, secondary, and public university representatives;
- b. Health care practitioners;
- c. Senior citizen advocates;
- d. Advocates for persons with special needs;
- e. Physical fitness and sports organizations;
- f. Parks and recreation experts;
- g. Business community and corporate interests;
- h. State and local government representatives; and
- i. Private citizens of Florida.

The State Surgeon General shall also serve as a member of the Council. From the members, the Governor will appoint a Chair. The Chair will act as the Governor's leading voice with state agencies and the public and private sectors on matters that relate to physical fitness and obesity prevention. The Council shall meet at a time and place designated by the Chair.

Section 3.

The Council shall develop a state plan of action to promote physical fitness and sound nutrition and reduce the rate of obesity and chronic disease in Florida's children, adults, and senior citizens. In addition, the state plan shall provide program and policy recommendations for ways to coordinate and streamline private sector activities with all relevant public sector programs in the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Elder Affairs, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Children and Families, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Community Affairs, and the Department of Transportation.

The state plan of action shall consider, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. The proper implementation of physical education courses every day for all elementary school students (K-5);

- b. The feasibility of providing physical education courses and activities every day for all students at the middle and high school (6-12) grade levels by the year 2012, with a particular emphasis on graduation requirements, ADA compliance, and additional impacts on the school day;
- c. The extent to which a healthy lifestyle paradigm is embedded in the Sunshine State Standards and secondary school curricula;
- d. Barriers to the provision of sufficient physical education within schools, including facilities limitations;
- e. The correlation between physical education and academic achievement;
- f. The feasibility of creating student fitness and wellness centers in schools and using such facilities both for physical education courses, as well as after-school and evening programs that encourage whole-family fitness;
- g. The extent to which Colleges of Education prepare physical education teachers to teach 21st century fitness;
- h. The availability and provision of professional development to recruit and retain certified physical education teachers;
- i. The possibility of having every school district maintain an independent physical fitness advisory panel to make further recommendations for student fitness testing every year beginning in the first grade;
- j. The nutritional value of school lunches and any barriers to providing nutritionally-sound, attractive school lunches at the elementary, middle, and high school levels;
- k. The availability of healthy snack and drink options in public and private schools and workplace vending machines;
- l. The promotion and inclusion of Florida agriculture, including fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats, in school and workplace meal plans;
- m. The success of state employee wellness programs to determine which strategies are most effective in order to publish model policies for government agencies and private employers to learn from and adopt;
- n. The implementation of recommendations made by the 2004 Governor's Task Force on the Obesity Epidemic;
- o. The development of a Governor's Recognition program, recognizing healthy schools, communities, worksites, and healthcare settings;
- p. The expansion of public awareness and access to existing programs that encourage healthy lifestyles through activities in Florida's state parks, beaches, greenways, and trails;
- q. The implementation of a healthy lifestyle paradigm in the planning and design of Florida's communities;
- r. The feasibility of making community roadways and transportation compatible with outdoor living and pedestrian activity; and
- s. The development of a strategy to increase public awareness of physical fitness initiatives through a comprehensive public service campaign.

The Council shall compile its findings and present an initial draft of its state plan of action to the Governor by August 1, 2007. A second draft of the state plan shall be due to the Governor no later than October 1, 2007. By December 1, 2007, the Council shall submit the

final, comprehensive state plan to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Governor.

Section 4.

Members of the Governor's Council shall serve without compensation, but may receive per diem and travel expenses while attending Council meetings to the extent allowed by Section 112.061, Florida Statutes, and to the extent that funds are available. Per diem and travel expenses shall be paid in accordance with Chapter 112, Florida Statutes. The Department of Health shall provide administrative support for the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and provide technical assistance, as needed.

Section 5.

All agencies under the control of the Governor are directed, and all other agencies are requested, to render full assistance and cooperation to the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 26th day of March, 2007.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE