

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2012

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 not
6 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 than
23 those associated with the use of non-combustible products; and

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

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

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

36 WHEREAS, The states of Kentucky and Indiana have previously

1 recognized the concept of relative risk of tobacco products; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 **5. Whether there might be unintended consequences of promoting**
29 **the concept of Tobacco Harm Reduction as one component of a**
30 **comprehensive tobacco control strategy which might include, among**
31 **other unintended consequences, the increased use of smokeless**
32 **tobacco products by underage persons; and**

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

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