

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 10-14

INTRODUCED BY: Public Health Committee

SUBJECT: Sugar-sweetened Beverage Tax

1 Whereas, one in three Maryland children is overweight or obese; and

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3 Whereas, more kids than ever are being diagnosed with adult-like diseases such as type 2 diabetes,
4 cardiovascular disease, high cholesterol level, and hypertension; and

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6 Whereas, sugar-sweetened beverages are the single greatest contributor to the obesity epidemic; and

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8 Whereas, kids who drink sugar-sweetened beverages drinks daily are 3x times more likely to be overweight or
9 obese and 7x times more likely to be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes than their peers who don't drink sugary
10 drinks; and

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12 Whereas, the cost in lives, health, and resources to the state of Maryland from obesity and its related chronic
13 illnesses is staggering; and

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15 Whereas, obesity and its related chronic illnesses are the single largest preventable cause of death and disease
16 for both men and women; and

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18 Whereas, increasing physical activity has had a modest impact on reducing obesity and its related chronic
19 illnesses; and

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21 Whereas, as physicians, we have a duty to espouse the best possible preventive health measures for our patients
22 and the public, including reducing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages; and

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24 Whereas, research on sugar-sweetened beverage taxes has found that implementing a sugar-sweetened
25 beverage tax will save lives, reduce healthcare costs and increase state revenue; and

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27 Whereas, sugar-sweetened beverages are defined as beverages to which caloric sweeteners are added by the
28 manufacturer or bottler. These beverages include bottled carbonated soft drinks (soda); fruit, sports, and
29 energy drinks; enhanced waters; and sweetened teas as well as sugar-sweetened syrups that are used to make
30 non-bottled SSBs (e.g., fountain drinks and sugary drinks containing coffee); and

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32 Whereas, since the rise in obesity rates clearly adversely affect health care any tax funds should go to health
33 care or public health programs; therefore be it

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35 Resolved, that MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, work towards implementing and supporting
36 measures that will reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages in the state of Maryland; and be it further

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38 Resolved, that MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, advocate that Maryland implement a
39 sugar-sweetened beverage tax and would require 100% of those funds to be dedicated to health care or public
40 health programs in the state of Maryland.

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43 As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 27, 2014.