

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

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3 Reducing Consumption of Sweetened Drinks to Improve the Health of Vermonters

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5 *Adopted on November 7, 2015*

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7 WHEREAS, over 58% of Vermont adults and nearly 27% of Vermont youth are overweight or  
8 obese; and

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10 WHEREAS, 21% of all U.S. health care costs are spent on obesity-related conditions; and

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12 WHEREAS, estimated annual obesity-related medical costs for the state of Vermont are \$163 million;  
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, consumption of sugar sweetened beverages has increased 500% in the past fifty years  
16 and is now the single largest category of caloric intake in children, surpassing milk in the late  
17 1990s; and

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19 WHEREAS, sugar sweetened beverages account for at least one-fifth of the weight gained between  
20 1977 and 2007 in the U.S. population; and

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22 WHEREAS, studies suggest that a 10% price increase for beverages through taxation would  
23 decrease consumption by about 8-10%, now therefore be it

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25 **RESOLVED that the VMS support a two-cent-per-ounce excise tax on sweetened beverages;**  
26 **and be it further**

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28 **RESOLVED, that all the revenue be used to provide greater access to health care to low**  
29 **income Vermonters, subsidizing the purchase of healthy foods for low-income Vermonters**  
30 **and funding obesity prevention/education efforts that are evidence-based.**