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## KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill

## **Referred to Committee:**Senate 1

Blue | Bill # SB 12

Authors: Justin Tran, Patrick White, Kevin Neri	Action on the Bill	
School: DeSales High School	House	Senate
	🗆 Passed	Passed
City: Louisville	🗆 Defeated	Defeated

An act to impose medical tests before applying for disability benefits to determine whether significant weight gain is a cause of uncontrollable health issues.

## Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Justification Clause: The United States is well known throughout the world as a country with many overweight or obese citizens. More than 1/3 of US adults (35.7%) are obese. However this is not just a national statistic. In Kentucky, 31.3% of the state's population is significantly overweight (2010) and Kentucky is ranked as the 9th fattest state in the US. These facts alone speak for themselves. With such an obese population, funding for health programs are strained to their breaking point. The estimated annual medical cost of obesity in the US in 2012 was between \$147 billion and \$210 billion. This bill is intended to revise the process in which persons who are significantly overweight receive benefits.

Section 1: On average, genotype at the FTO gene (fat mass & obesity gene) accounts for about 6.6 pounds of difference in weight, and therefore affects your risk of obesity. In order to accurately determine whether one is obese by their own decisions or for uncontrollable reasons, a sophisticated test will be used by all institutions distributing medical benefits to determine whether this gene is present.

Section 2: If this gene is present, a less strenuous process will be applied to the applicant. This may just include a physical, past medical history, and any medication currently being consumed. A guide will be issued to encourage a healthy lifestyle to counter the "obesity" gene.

Section 3: If this gene is not present, a more strenuous process will be applied to the applicant. It will ask a series of questions about lifestyle and will call in two witnesses to provide authenticity of claims. It will be much harder for these persons to get medical benefits.

Section 4: Funding for tests and processes concerning the discernment of cause of significant weight gain will be provided by funds saved from the reduction in benefits given out to applicants who fail the test.

Section 5: This proposal shall be enforced by an individual's insurance.

Section 6: This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2015.