

State of South Dakota

NINETY-THIRD SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2018

832Z0766

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. _____

Introduced by: _____

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging awareness of alcohol as a direct cause of
2 seven types of cancer and calling for warning labels on alcohol products similar to those on
3 tobacco products.

4 WHEREAS, alcohol has been recognized as a Group 1 carcinogen and a direct cause of
5 seven types of cancer by the American Cancer Society, the American Society of Clinical
6 Oncology, the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and cancer advocacy
7 and awareness organizations throughout the world; and

8 WHEREAS, the scientific community, cancer care organizations, and public health
9 organizations recognize that even moderate consumption of alcohol can cause cancers; and

10 WHEREAS, alcohol is proven to cause cancers of the mouth, throat (pharynx), voice box
11 (larynx), esophagus, stomach, liver, colon and breast; and

12 WHEREAS, it is estimated that, worldwide, about five percent of new cancers and six
13 percent of cancer deaths each year are directly attributable to alcohol consumption; and

14 WHEREAS, consuming even one alcoholic drink per day is linked with a five percent
15 increase in the risk of breast cancer, a seventeen percent increase in the risk of oropharyngeal
16 cancer (a cancer of the middle part of the throat), and a thirty percent increase in the risk of



1 esophageal cancer, compared with not drinking; and

2 WHEREAS, government responsibility for health information related to Group 1 cancer
3 causing carcinogens has historically led to improved health outcomes related to other
4 carcinogenic products such as asbestos and tobacco; and

5 WHEREAS, consumers deserve to know if a product causes cancer or may adversely impact
6 their health; and

7 WHEREAS, women deserve to know that alcohol is among the leading indicators for breast
8 cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, just as prominent health warnings on tobacco are critical to reducing tobacco
10 use and ensuring that smokers are adequately informed about the risks of smoking, prominent
11 health warnings on alcohol products would benefit consumers of alcohol by educating about the
12 impacts of alcohol and health; and

13 WHEREAS, over seventy percent of Americans are not aware that alcohol causes cancer,
14 according to a recent study by American Society of Clinical Oncology; and

15 WHEREAS, prominent health warnings on packages are among the most cost-effective
16 forms of public health education available:

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
18 Third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
19 Dakota Legislature recognizes the importance of awareness of the link between alcohol and
20 seven types of cancer and encourages the Department of Labor and Regulation and Department
21 of Health to research and pursue warning labels for alcohol products sold in South Dakota to
22 indicate that alcohol is a known cause of cancers.