

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 551 by Representative Mills

SANITARY CODE: Creates a public safety campaign and labeling program for Chinese seafood, and the Seafood Safety Task Force

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Clarifies that the state health officer's statement encouraging consumers to eat Louisiana seafood and warning of the risks that may be associated with eating Chinese seafood may be included on labels and other promotional signs but is not required.
2. Clarifies that both members of the House Committee on Health and Welfare and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare serving on the Seafood Safety Task Force will be appointed by the chairmen of the respective committees.
3. Adds a representative of the La. Restaurant Association and a public health nutritionist to the Seafood Safety Task Force.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

HB No. 551

Present law creates a seafood inspection program under the La. Dept. of Agriculture and subject to the state Sanitary Code, as administered by the La. Dept. of Health and Hospitals.

Proposed law creates a separate public safety campaign to warn the public of the risks of consuming Chinese seafood even if it is deemed safe by the seafood inspection program.

Proposed law requires the state health officer to promulgate rules and regulations to ensure consumers are warned of potential health risks of Chinese seafood.

Proposed law requires the state health officer and the La. Restaurant Association to employ a marketing campaign that highlights the benefits of eating domestic seafood.

Proposed law requires the state health officer and the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to enter into a memorandum of understanding to implement this marketing campaign.

Proposed law requires the La. Retailers Association to work with the La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the La. Crawfish Promotion and Research Board, and other respective agencies to develop a voluntary assessment for the implementation of the public safety marketing campaign.

Proposed law requires the state health officer to produce a statement that may be included on labels, placards, menu boards, or other promotional signage that encourages consumers to consume La. seafood and warns of the risks that may be associated with the consumption of Chinese seafood.

Proposed law requires the La. Retailers Association, the La. Restaurant Association along with other necessary organizations to work with the state health officer and the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to encourage the display of the signage and other promotional literature as provided for in proposed law where seafood sales occur.

Proposed law creates the Seafood Safety Task Force that is charged with obtaining: (1) the method in which the imported seafood is inspected in La.; (2) the frequency of inspections of imported seafood; (3) the substances for which imported seafood are currently being

tested; and (4) the results of sampling analysis of potentially harmful substances in imported seafood. The task force shall compile the results of these findings and develop seafood and safety recommendations to be reported to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development by March 1, 2010.

Proposed law provides for the membership of the task force as follows:

- (1) A member appointed by the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare who shall serve as chair of the task force or his designee.
- (2) A member appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.
- (3) The commissioner of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee.
- (4) The chancellor of the La. State University Agricultural Center or his designee.
- (5) A representative of the La. Poison Control Center.
- (6) The secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- (7) A representative of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- (8) A representative of the La. Farm Bureau Federation.
- (9) The secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries or his designee.
- (10) The secretary of the Dept. of Environmental Quality or his designee.
- (11) A representative of the La. Restaurant Association.
- (12) A public health nutritionist.

Effective Jan. 1, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 40:4(A)(1)(b); Adds R.S. 40:5.5.2 and 5.5.3)