

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

CONGRESS: Memorializes the United States Congress to review and enact the Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption Act

## 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the  
3 Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption Act (PRIME Act) during the  
4 119th Congress, emphasizing the critical importance of local control over meat  
5 processing and the growth of Louisiana's meat production industry to enhance  
6 economic resilience, support small farmers, and meet the needs of Louisiana citizens.

7           WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the vital role that agriculture  
8    plays in the economic and cultural fabric of our state, with livestock and meat production  
9    serving as a cornerstone of rural communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Thomas Massie sponsored the PRIME Act during the  
11 118th Congress, working alongside a bipartisan group of lawmakers to support small  
12 farmers, expand local food access, and challenge federal restrictions on meat processing; and

13 WHEREAS, the federal regulatory framework under the Federal Meat Inspection Act  
14 (21 U.S.C. 623) imposes burdensome requirements on small-scale slaughter facilities,  
15 limiting their ability to process meat for intrastate commerce and stifling local industry  
16 growth; and

17 WHEREAS, the PRIME Act would amend federal law to expand exemptions from  
18 mandatory federal inspections for custom slaughter facilities, empowering Louisiana's  
19 producers to process and sell meat directly to consumers, restaurants, and retailers in this  
20 state under its own robust regulatory oversight; and

1 WHEREAS, local control over meat processing would enable Louisiana to tailor  
2 standards to the unique needs of our producers and consumers, fostering innovation,  
3 ensuring food safety, and preserving the integrity of our agricultural heritage; and

4 WHEREAS, the growth of Louisiana's own meat production industry would bolster  
5 economic development by creating jobs, reducing reliance on out-of-state supply chains, and  
6 strengthening food security for the citizens of Louisiana, as demonstrated during disruptions  
7 like the COVID-19 pandemic when centralized processing shortages left local demand  
8 unmet; and

9 WHEREAS, small farmers and ranchers in Louisiana, who form the backbone of  
10 Louisiana's agricultural economy, face unnecessary barriers to market entry due to federal  
11 overreach, and the PRIME Act would empower these producers to thrive by keeping  
12 economic benefits within Louisiana communities; and

13 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana affirms that states possess the inherent  
14 authority and capability to regulate intrastate commerce effectively, and the PRIME Act  
15 aligns with principles of federalism by restoring decision-making power to state  
16 governments and local stakeholders; and

17 WHEREAS, passing the PRIME Act would not preempt Louisiana's ability to  
18 enforce stringent safety and quality standards, ensuring that Louisiana citizens continue to  
19 enjoy safe, high-quality meat products while supporting homegrown industry expansion; and

20 WHEREAS, the bipartisan support for the PRIME Act in previous congressional  
21 sessions, championed by leaders such as Representative Thomas Massie and Senator Rand  
22 Paul, reflects a broad recognition of its potential to revitalize local economies across the  
23 nation, including Louisiana.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
25 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review and  
26 pass the PRIME Act during the 119th Congress.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
28 emphasize the necessity of local control and the growth of Louisiana's meat production  
29 industry as central to the PRIME Act's merits, urging the United States Congress to act

1     swiftly to empower Louisiana's producers, enhance economic opportunity, and secure a  
2     resilient food system for Louisiana residents.

3             BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
4     presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States  
5     Congress, to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and to the Honorable  
6     United States Representative Thomas Massie, sponsor of the PRIME Act during the 119th  
7     Congress, to ensure that our state's voice is heard in this critical matter.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 21 Original

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Memorializes the U.S. Congress to review and pass the PRIME Act during the 119th Congress, emphasizing local control and the growth of the meat production industry in La., and to enhance economic resilience, support farmers, and meet the needs of La. citizens.