

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON AND SENATORS GAUTREAUX, MILLS,
NEVERS, AND THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Food and Drug Administration to take immediate and focused action to improve the enforcement of food import restrictions of seafood imports prior to sale in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, over one-half of all commercial seafood consumed in the United States is imported from approximately one hundred thirty-five countries; and

WHEREAS, the Bioterrorism Act of 2002 and other federal regulations require the United States Food and Drug Administration to establish and enforce protocols for importing seafood to ensure the protection of the food supply and the safety of all consumers; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration now requires domestic and foreign processors and importers to adopt Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles to prevent the occurrence of hazards that could affect the safety of seafood products and pose potential threats to American consumers; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration further requires the registration of foreign facilities engaged in the importation of seafood products to the United States and requires prior notice of such shipments; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of this nation depend on the Food and Drug Administration to ensure the safety and high quality of the nation's food supply through the enforcement of these established protocols; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana is concerned about the continued presence of certain chemical, bacterial, or biotoxin contaminants in imported seafood that put its citizens at risk for serious food-borne illnesses; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the health and well-being of the citizens of this state that all imported seafood be wholesome and free of adulteration prior to sale in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana calls on the federal government to take immediate and focused action to improve enforcement of all food import restrictions before imported seafood products are released into United States commerce.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Food and Drug Administration to institute a renewed effort to protect the health and well-being of United States citizens and the safety of the food supply by implementing and enforcing the highest standards necessary to ensure regulatory compliance; to research, develop, and implement more effective methods of sampling, testing, and inspecting imported seafood products; and to report its findings to the Legislature of Louisiana through the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the United States Food and Drug Administration and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE