

1 WHEREAS, the FDA's regulations for imported seafood are supposed to measure
2 the compliance of imported seafood with inspections of foreign processing facilities,
3 sampling of seafood offered for import into the U.S., domestic surveillance sampling of
4 imported products, inspections of seafood importers, foreign country program assessments,
5 and the use of information from foreign partners and FDA overseas offices; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately ninety four percent of the volume of seafood sold in the
7 U.S. is imported from other countries; and

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources
9 published a 2020 paper titled "Determination of Sulfite and Antimicrobial Residue in
10 Imported Shrimp to the USA", which presented findings from a study of shrimp imported
11 from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and Ecuador and purchased
12 from retail stores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, a screening of these shrimp for sulfites and residues from antimicrobial
14 drugs found the following: (1) five percent of the shrimp contained malachite green, (2)
15 seven percent contained oxytetracycline, (3) seventeen percent contained fluoroquinolone,
16 and (4) seventy percent contained nitrofurantoin, all of which have been banned by the FDA
17 in domestic aquaculture operations; and

18 WHEREAS, although the FDA requires that food products exposed to sulfites
19 include a label with a statement about the presence of sulfites, of the forty-three percent of
20 these locally purchased shrimp found to contain sulfites, not one package complied with this
21 labeling requirement; and

22 WHEREAS, the drug and sulfite residues included in this screening can be harmful
23 to human health during both handling and consumption and have been known to cause all
24 of the following: liver damage and tumors, reproductive abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmia,
25 renal failure, hemolysis, asthma attacks, and allergic reactions; and

26 WHEREAS, the results of this study confirm that existing screening and enforcement
27 measures for imported seafood are insufficient; and

28 WHEREAS, whatever the percentage of imports inspected may be, seafood is
29 currently being imported that contains unsafe substances that put American consumers at
30 risk; and

1 WHEREAS, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) directs the FDA to inspect
2 each domestic high-risk food facility at least once every three years and each non-high-risk
3 food facility at least once every five years; and

4 WHEREAS, according to a January 2025 report by the Government Accountability
5 Office (GAO), the FDA has not met the mandated targets of the FSMA since 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, from Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2023, the FDA inspected
7 an average of eight thousand fifty-three domestic food facilities per year versus just nine
8 hundred seventeen foreign food facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, the GAO found that the FDA applies far more scrutiny to U.S.-based
10 seafood processors than it does to their foreign competitors; and

11 WHEREAS, in contrast, imports of fishery products into the European Union (EU)
12 are subject to strict standards including the requirement of an official certification based on
13 the recognition of the competent authority of the non-EU country by the European
14 Commission; and

15 WHEREAS, for all fishery products exported into the EU, countries of origin must
16 be on a positive list of eligible countries; and

17 WHEREAS, imports of fishery products from non-EU countries must enter the EU
18 via an approved border inspection post under the authority of an official veterinarian in the
19 EU member state in question and each consignment is subject to a systematic documentary,
20 identity, and physical check; and

21 WHEREAS, consignments which are noncompliant with EU legislation shall either
22 be destroyed or, under certain conditions, redispached within sixty days; and

23 WHEREAS, the FDA needs to improve oversight of imported seafood to, at
24 minimum, match our foreign counterparts while simultaneously ensuring the seafood
25 consumed in the state is safe.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the
28 FDA to increase inspection and testing of imported seafood.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge
2 the United States Congress to support the recommendations of the GAO in its January 8,
3 2025, report (GAO-25-107571).

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
5 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
6 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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)]

HCR 8 Original

2025 Regular Session

Bayham

Memorializes Congress to compel the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood.