

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 214

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

SEAFOOD: Urges and requests the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to ban imported seafood until proper testing and inspections can be performed

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human
3 Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to ban imported seafood until proper testing and
4 inspections can be performed.

5 WHEREAS, about eighty percent of estimated United States consumption of seafood
6 comes from abroad, primarily from Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, per
8 capita consumption of seafood products, including canned, fresh, frozen, and cured, reached
9 an estimated twenty pounds per person in 2021; and

10 WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration is responsible for all fish and fishery
11 products entering the United States and is tasked with identifying immediate or potential
12 threats and protecting public health and safety; and

13 WHEREAS, shrimp are one of the most frequently purchased types of seafood from
14 both domestic and imported sources; and

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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, this study makes clear that there are deficiencies in the current testing
11 and inspecting processes and those deficiencies lead to potential harm to Americans; and

12 WHEREAS, the FDA's seafood safety program is governed by its Hazard Analysis
13 Critical Control Point regulations, which address food safety management through the
14 analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material
15 production and procurement and handling to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption
16 of the finished product; and

17 WHEREAS, the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human
18 Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has stated that his goal of "Making America Healthy
19 Again" will include examining the safety and quality of the food Americans are consuming.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
21 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of the United States
22 Department of Health and Human Services to ban imported seafood until proper testing and
23 inspections can be performed.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and to each
26 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)]

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Urges and requests the secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to ban imported seafood until proper testing and inspections can be performed.