

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY REPRESENTATIVES KERNER, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAYHAM,
BRAUD, BROWN, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, COX, FISHER,
LYONS, MARCELLE, MOORE, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, TAYLOR, THOMPSON,
AND WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to study the health impacts of imported shrimp.

WHEREAS, the United States imports nearly two billion pounds of shrimp per year from countries including India, Ecuador, and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has refused entry lines of shrimp for reasons related to banned antibiotics more than any other year since 2017; and

WHEREAS, concerns regarding the poor labor practices in non-domestic processing facilities remain an issue; and

WHEREAS, difficulty in verifying the origin and quality of imported shrimp is prevalent in the United States; and

WHEREAS, mislabeling imported shrimp leads to misleading consumers as to the origin of the shrimp they purchase or consume; and

WHEREAS, the safety of United States citizens' consumption of imported shrimp is critical to public health in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over half of the imported seafood consumed in the United States is from aquaculture or seafood farming, rather than wild-caught; and

WHEREAS, the health of Americans is the stated ultimate priority for the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

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

WHEREAS, the FDA is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the United States and being sold in Louisiana; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the results of this study confirm that existing screening and enforcement measures for imported seafood are insufficient; whatever the percentage of imports inspected may be, seafood is currently being imported; and

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

of the finished product; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Kennedy can assist with reaching his "Make America Healthy Again" goals by studying the nearly two billion pounds of shrimp that are imported into the United States annually.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to study the health impacts of imported shrimp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and to the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES