

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY REPRESENTATIVE WOODRUFF

CONSUMERS/FOOD-BEVERAGES: Requests the Department of Agriculture to study and make recommendations for a prospective state policy regulating the sale or use of genetically modified organisms

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study and make  
3 recommendations for a prospective state policy regulating the sale or use of  
4 genetically modified organisms, including but not limited to the feasibility of  
5 requiring notification labels on food products produced with genetically engineered  
6 material.

7 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization defines genetically modified organisms  
8 (GMOs) as organisms in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not  
9 occur naturally; and

10 WHEREAS, biotechnology allows selected individual genes to be transferred from  
11 one organism into another, including between nonrelated species, to create GMO plants  
12 which result in GMO food crops; and

13 WHEREAS, according to a United States Department of Agriculture Report,  
14 genetically modified crops were planted on one hundred sixty-nine million acres in 2013,  
15 about half of the land used for crops in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, the most common GMO crops are soy, cotton, canola, corn, sugar beets,  
17 alfalfa, and squash; and

18 WHEREAS, many of these GMOs appear as added ingredients in the foods eaten by  
19 the people of Louisiana each day; and

1           WHEREAS, in North America, it has been estimated that over seventy percent of  
2 packaged foods contain GMOs; and

3           WHEREAS, in order to make informed decisions concerning food consumption, the  
4 public needs to be made aware of the contents of food; and

5           WHEREAS, at least sixty countries require labeling of GMOs, including the nations  
6 of the European Union, Australia, Japan, Russia, China, New Zealand, Brazil, and South  
7 Africa; and

8           WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association, American Nurses Association,  
9 the British Medical Association, and the Irish Medical Association support the labeling of  
10 GMOs; and

11           WHEREAS, surveys of the United States public have shown significant support for  
12 the labeling of GMOs.

13           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Agriculture and  
15 Forestry to study and make recommendations for a prospective state policy regulating the  
16 sale or use of genetically modified organisms, including but not limited to the feasibility of  
17 requiring notification labels on food products produced with genetically engineered material.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study conducted by the department shall  
19 include but not be limited to the following issues:

20           (1) A survey of which industries and groups are currently producing, importing,  
21 selling, using, or consuming GMOs in Louisiana.

22           (2) The potential effects, including the effect on Louisiana's food producers,  
23 distributors, and consumers, of state labeling requirements for GMOs, including meat and  
24 seafood products created from animals which have been fed GMO crops, upon the economic  
25 development of Louisiana.

26           (3) A complete listing of the GMO crops that are produced in Louisiana and a  
27 determination if any of the crops are exported to other states or countries.

28           (4) A survey of the ways in which the GMO crops produced in Louisiana are used  
29 for human or animal consumption.

1 (5) A survey of any GMOs produced in Louisiana or imported into Louisiana to be  
2 used for animal feed, including a determination of what GMOs are used and the quantity of  
3 each GMO produced or imported for such use.

4 (6) A complete listing of countries that require GMO disclosure labeling.

5 (7) A complete listing of countries that have banned the cultivation, sale, and  
6 importation of GMO crops, including a determination if any of these countries have rejected  
7 GMOs exported by Louisiana and the economic impact on Louisiana of such rejection.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the department may  
9 solicit the input, recommendations, and advice of the Department of Health and Hospitals,  
10 the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, the Southern University Agricultural  
11 Center, and any other entity the department deems appropriate.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a written report of  
13 its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the  
14 issue, to the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural  
15 Development not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular Session of  
16 the Legislature of Louisiana.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
18 commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

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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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Woodruff

HR No. 172

Requests the Dept. of Agriculture to study and make recommendations for a prospective state policy regulating the sale or use of genetically modified organisms and to submit a written report to the House Committee on Agriculture not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2015 R.S.