2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

SEAFOOD: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health and the United States Food and Drug Administration to expand testing of imported shrimp

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the United States Food and
3	Drug Administration to expand testing of imported shrimp products and increase
4	public awareness of health risks associated with imported shrimp.
5	WHEREAS, the harvesting of shrimp has been part of the cultural heritage of
6	Louisiana since the nineteenth century; and
7	WHEREAS, according to a recent report by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette,
8	the Louisiana seafood industry produces an economic impact of over \$2.4 billion annually
9	for the state; and
10	WHEREAS, the Louisiana shrimp fishery is the largest commercial fishery in the
11	state by economic value and the second largest commercial fishery by volume of landings;
12	and
13	WHEREAS, Louisiana's shrimp landings account for more than forty percent of all
14	warmwater shrimp landed in the United States in 2022; and
15	WHEREAS, the Louisiana wild-caught shrimp fishery is losing domestic market
16	share to an inferior, pond-raised, imported shrimp, which results in lower dockside prices
17	for Louisiana fishers; and
18	WHEREAS, approximately ninety-four percent of seafood sold in the United States
19	is imported and shrimp account for the highest percent of all seafood imports; and
20	WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
21	(NOAA), imported shrimp products have risen from less than two hundred fifty million
22	pounds in 1980, to nearly two billion pounds in 2022; and

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1 WHEREAS, according to statistics from the United States Census Bureau and the 2 NOAA, the price per pound for imported shrimp, adjusted for inflation, has decreased from 3 nearly ten dollars in 1980, to just over four dollars in 2022, while the Gulf dockside value 4 has declined from nearly five dollars in 1980, to approximately two dollars and fifty cents 5 in 2022; and 6 WHEREAS, current food safety regulations and inspections are failing to prevent 7 risks to human safety and, according to a report published in Environmental Science and 8 Technology, only two percent of all seafood imported into the United States is tested for 9 contamination, whereas the European Union inspects fifty percent, Japan inspects eighteen 10 percent, and Canada inspects fifteen percent. 11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 12 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the United States Food and Drug 13 Administration to expand the testing of imported shrimp products for banned drugs, bacteria, 14 and disease and to increase public awareness to the possible health risks associated with 15 imported shrimp. 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge 17 the United States Congress to support legislation requiring the labeling of all shrimp sold at 18 restaurants to be labeled with their country of origin and to take such actions as are necessary 19 to hold foreign fisheries to the same standards as domestic fisheries and reduce the volume 20 of shrimp products imported into the United States. 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 22 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States 23 Congress 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)]

Garofalo

Urges and requests the La. Dept. of Health and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to expand testing of imported shrimp products and to increase public awareness of health risks associated with imported shrimp. Additionally, urges Congress to support legislation for country-of-origin labeling, to hold foreign and domestic fisheries to the same standards, and to reduce shrimp product imports.