
The original instrument was prepared by Amanda Trapp. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

DIGEST

SB 166 Reengrossed 2024 Regular Session Connick

Proposed law prohibits potentially misleading packaging and marketing of seafood products as Louisiana products.

Proposed law requires the commissioner of agriculture to ensure compliance and issue fines for violation of proposed law.

Present law requires all state agencies, state institutions, and local school districts that operate food service facilities for students, patients, or inmates to only utilize meat, poultry, and seafood products that have met all Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry requirements for grading and certification.

Proposed law adds that those entities only utilize domestic shrimp or domestic crawfish as defined in proposed law.

Present law establishes a Chinese seafood warning label program.

Proposed law modernizes the warning label program to include all imported seafood.

Proposed law provides definition for "domestic shrimp" and "domestic crawfish".

Present law requires food service establishments that sell or provide cooked or prepared crawfish or shrimp that originate outside of the United States to notify patrons that the seafood is imported or to provide the country of origin for seafood. Present law requires the Louisiana Department of Health to ensure compliance with present law.

Present law prohibits an owner or manager of a restaurant that sells imported crawfish or shrimp from misrepresenting to the public, either verbally, on a menu, or on signs displayed on the premises, that the crawfish or shrimp is domestic. Present law requires the district attorney of the district where the restaurant is located to have jurisdiction over violations.

Proposed law combines the present law provisions and grants enforcement authority of both provisions to the Louisiana Department of Health and increases fines issued by the department.

Proposed law changes the notification requirement to require a disclaimer that imported crawfish or shrimp may be sold at the establishment to be printed on a menu or placed on a sign displayed at the front of the establishment.

Proposed law provides additional notification requirements for food establishments that sell unpackaged crawfish or shrimp.

Proposed law requires the Louisiana Department of Health to establish a reporting mechanism for members of the public to report suspected violations and provides for limitations on liability for individuals who report.

Proposed law repeals provisions in the Sanitary Code relative to Chinese seafood.

Effective January 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 39:2101 and R.S. 40:5.5.2 and 5.5.4; adds R.S. 3:4706; repeals R.S. 40:4(A)(1)(b) and R.S. 56:578.14)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Changes requirements for certain seafood products that are labeled or marketed in association with Louisiana's culture and heritage.
2. Provides for the powers of the commissioner of agriculture in regulating the products.
3. Changes notification requirements for food service establishments that serve imported crawfish or shrimp.
4. Adds discretion of the Louisiana Department of Health in assessing fines for first offense violations of the notification requirements.
5. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds January 1, 2025 effective date.
2. Technical amendments