

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

SEAFOOD: Urges and requests the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to study the negative health impacts of imported shrimp

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 study the health impacts of imported shrimp.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, the FDA's seafood safety program is governed by its Hazard Analysis

1 Critical Control Point regulations, which address food safety management through the
2 analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material
3 production, procurement, and handling to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption
4 of the finished product; and

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

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

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F.
14 Kennedy, Jr., and to the members 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)]

HR 152 Original

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Kerner

Urges and requests the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to study the health impacts of imported shrimp on Americans.