

1-1 By: Eiland, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Jackson) H.C.R. No. 103
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2003;
1-3 May 9, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 24, 2003, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-6 Nays 0; May 24, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.C.R. No. 103 By: Lindsay

1-8 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-9 WHEREAS, Imports of seafood from countries that use
1-10 substances in aquaculture such as chloramphenicol, nitrofurans,
1-11 and other veterinary drugs banned for such use in the United States
1-12 pose potential threats to United States consumers; and

1-13 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is concerned about the use of
1-14 certain antibiotics and other banned veterinary drugs in shrimp
1-15 imported from outside of the United States for consumption in the
1-16 State of Texas; chloramphenicol, a potent antibiotic, can cause
1-17 severe toxic effects in humans, including hypoplastic anemia, which
1-18 is usually irreversible and fatal; and

1-19 WHEREAS, Because of such human health impacts,
1-20 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and similar veterinary drugs are not
1-21 approved for use in food-producing animals in the United States;
1-22 and

1-23 WHEREAS, Other countries, including Thailand, Vietnam, and
1-24 China have been found to use these drugs in the aquaculture of
1-25 shrimp and other seafood; and

1-26 WHEREAS, The United States imports over 400,000 metric tons
1-27 of shrimp annually, and Thailand, Vietnam, and China are the
1-28 largest, second largest, and fifth largest exporter of shrimp to
1-29 the United States, respectively; and

1-30 WHEREAS, On detection of chloramphenicol in certain
1-31 shipments of seafood from China and other countries through the use
1-32 of testing protocols that can detect such substances to 0.3 parts
1-33 per billion, the European Union and Canada severely restricted
1-34 imports of shrimp and other food from these countries in 2002; and

1-35 WHEREAS, The federal Food and Drug Administration inspects
1-36 only two percent of all seafood imports into the United States and
1-37 uses a testing procedure that cannot detect the presence of
1-38 chloramphenicol below one part per billion; and

1-39 WHEREAS, United States-based companies involved in the
1-40 importing and processing of shrimp are opposed to the use of
1-41 chloramphenicol and are working with the domestic shrimp industry
1-42 and the FDA to develop effective protocols to detect banned
1-43 antibiotics and to exclude all tainted products from the United
1-44 States market; and

1-45 WHEREAS, Although the federal Food and Drug Administration
1-46 tests of imported food did not detect chloramphenicol in shrimp
1-47 imported from China and other countries in 2002, independent
1-48 testing performed by or for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,
1-49 Mississippi, and Texas detected chloramphenicol in samples of
1-50 imported shrimp from those countries at levels harmful to human
1-51 health; and

1-52 WHEREAS, The denial of entry to the European Union and Canada
1-53 of contaminated shrimp and other products will likely redirect
1-54 those contaminated products to the United States; now, therefore,
1-55 be it

1-56 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-57 hereby express concern about the presence of chloramphenicol,
1-58 nitrofurans, and other banned veterinary drugs in imported shrimp,
1-59 the potential adverse impact on the safety of the food supply, and
1-60 the resultant risk to human health, and call for the FDA to continue
1-61 working with both importers and domestic stakeholders to develop
1-62 effective methods to detect and exclude seafood imports containing
1-63 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and other banned veterinary drugs;

2-1 and, be it further
2-2 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-3 hereby call for immediate and focused actions by the United States
2-4 government to improve the enforcement of food import restrictions
2-5 on seafood imports containing chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and
2-6 other banned veterinary drugs in order to ensure the safety of the
2-7 food supply and to protect consumers in the United States and, in
2-8 particular, in Texas.

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