

1-1 By: Jackson S.C.R. No. 25
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2003; March 20, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;
1-4 May 2, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,
1-5 Nays 0; May 2, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Imports of seafood from countries that use
1-8 substances in aquaculture such as chloramphenicol, nitrofurans,
1-9 and other veterinary drugs banned for such use in the United States
1-10 pose potential threats to United States consumers; and

1-11 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is concerned about the use of
1-12 certain antibiotics and other banned veterinary drugs in shrimp
1-13 imported from outside of the United States for consumption in the
1-14 State of Texas; chloramphenicol, a potent antibiotic, can cause
1-15 severe toxic effects in humans, including hypoplastic anemia, which
1-16 is usually irreversible and fatal; and

1-17 WHEREAS, Because of such human health impacts,
1-18 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and similar veterinary drugs are not
1-19 approved for use in food-producing animals in the United States;
1-20 and

1-21 WHEREAS, Other countries, including Thailand, Vietnam, and
1-22 China have been found to use these drugs in the aquaculture of
1-23 shrimp and other seafood; and

1-24 WHEREAS, The United States imports over 400,000 metric tons
1-25 of shrimp annually, and Thailand, Vietnam, and China are the
1-26 largest, second largest, and fifth largest exporter of shrimp to
1-27 the United States, respectively; and

1-28 WHEREAS, On detection of chloramphenicol in certain
1-29 shipments of seafood from China and other countries through the use
1-30 of testing protocols that can detect such substances to 0.3 parts
1-31 per billion, the European Union and Canada severely restricted
1-32 imports of shrimp and other food from these countries in 2002; and

1-33 WHEREAS, The federal Food and Drug Administration inspects
1-34 only two percent of all seafood imports into the United States and
1-35 uses a testing procedure that cannot detect the presence of
1-36 chloramphenicol below one part per billion; and

1-37 WHEREAS, Although the federal Food and Drug Administration
1-38 tests of imported food did not detect chloramphenicol in shrimp
1-39 imported from China and other countries in 2002, independent
1-40 testing performed by or for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,
1-41 Mississippi, and Texas detected chloramphenicol in samples of
1-42 imported shrimp from those countries at levels harmful to human
1-43 health; and

1-44 WHEREAS, The denial of entry to the European Union and Canada
1-45 of contaminated shrimp and other products will likely redirect
1-46 those contaminated products to the United States; now, therefore,
1-47 be it

1-48 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-49 hereby express concern about the presence of chloramphenicol,
1-50 nitrofurans, and other banned veterinary drugs in imported shrimp,
1-51 the potential adverse impact on the safety of the food supply, and
1-52 the resultant risk to human health; and, be it further

1-53 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-54 hereby call for immediate and focused actions by the United States
1-55 government to improve the enforcement of food import restrictions
1-56 on seafood imports containing chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and
1-57 other banned veterinary drugs in order to ensure the safety of the
1-58 food supply, and to protect consumers in the United States and, in
1-59 particular, in Texas.

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