



HR 9143

2003

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution expressing concern over the presence of  
3 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and other veterinary drugs  
4 in imported shrimp.

5  
6 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives expresses its  
7 concern over the presence of chloramphenicol and other banned  
8 veterinary drugs in imported shrimp and asserts that immediate  
9 action needs to be taken to improve enforcement of restrictions  
10 on seafood imports in order to protect the consumers of Florida  
11 and the United States and ensure the safety of the food supply,  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, chloramphenicol, a potent antibiotic, can cause  
14 severe toxic effects in humans, including hypo-aplastic anemia,  
15 which is usually irreversible and fatal, and

16 WHEREAS, because of these human health impacts,  
17 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and similar veterinary drugs are  
18 not approved for use in food-producing animals in the State of  
19 Florida and in the United States, and

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

23 WHEREAS, this nation imports over 400,000 metric tons of  
24 shrimp annually, with Thailand and Vietnam being the top two  
25 exporters of shrimp to the United States and China the fifth  
26 largest exporter of shrimp to the United States, and

27 WHEREAS, upon detection of chloramphenicol using testing  
28 protocols that can detect such substances to 0.3 parts per  
29 billion in certain shipments of seafood from China and other  
30 nations, in 2002 the European Union and Canada severely



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31 restricted imports of shrimp and other food from these nations,  
 32 and

33 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration  
 34 inspects only 2 percent of all seafood imports into the United  
 35 States and utilizes a testing procedure that cannot detect the  
 36 presence of chloramphenicol below 1 part per billion, and

37 WHEREAS, Food and Drug Administration import testing did  
 38 not detect chloramphenicol in shrimp imported from these nations  
 39 in 2002, although independent testing performed by or for the  
 40 states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas  
 41 detected the drug in samples of imported shrimp from China and  
 42 other countries at levels harmful to human health, and

43 WHEREAS, imports of seafood from nations that utilize  
 44 substances banned in the United States, such as chloramphenicol,  
 45 nitrofurans, and other veterinary drugs, pose potential threats  
 46 to United States consumers, and

47 WHEREAS, denial of entry of contaminated shrimp and other  
 48 products to the European Union and Canada will likely redirect  
 49 imports of contaminated products turned away from these  
 50 countries into the United States, NOW, THEREFORE,

51  
 52 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 53 Florida:

54  
 55 That the Florida House of Representatives expresses its  
 56 concern over the presence of chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and  
 57 other veterinary drugs in imported shrimp and its potential  
 58 impact on the safety of the food.