

2010 -- H 7051

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**REQUESTING THE FDA AND ISSC CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE SHELLFISH
INDUSTRY AND STATE REGULATORS TO IMPROVE SHELLFISH SAFETY**

Introduced By: Representatives M Rice, Watson, Naughton, Gallison, and Malik

Date Introduced: January 07, 2010

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The harvest and culture of shellfish have formed an important part of Rhode
2 Island's cultural heritage and economic development for hundreds of years; and

3 WHEREAS, The culture of shellfish is a sustainable practice with proven environmental
4 benefits providing critical ecosystem services to our marine environment; and

5 WHEREAS, The sustainable harvest and culture of shellfish provide important jobs and
6 economic development with economic impacts in many related industries that are fundamental to
7 our state's ocean economy; and

8 WHEREAS, Shellfish are an excellent source of highly nutritional, essential, heart-
9 healthy fish oils, protein, and minerals; and

10 WHEREAS, Rhode Island produces some of the most delicious and highly sought after
11 shellfish in the world; and

12 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health (RI DOH) and the Rhode Island
13 Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) have successfully worked in cooperation
14 with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through the auspices of the
15 interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) to implement the National Shellfish Sanitation
16 Program (NSSP), with the aim of improving the monitoring, safety, and handling of our state's
17 shellfish resources since the ISSC's inception in 1982; and

18 WHEREAS, RI DOH and RI DEM have worked with the industry, the FDA, and the
19 ISSC to develop regulations and procedures to ensure that our shellfish are among the safest in

1 the world; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this Rhode Island House of Representatives of the State of Rhode
3 Island and Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests the FDA to continue to work
4 through the auspices of the ISSC in cooperation with the shellfish industry and state regulators in
5 efforts to regulate our shellfish industry; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests the ISSC not to attempt to
7 promulgate any regulation or guidance limiting the rights of Rhode Islanders to enjoy and
8 consume raw shellfish unless all other alternatives have been evaluated and the economic impacts
9 of such action are fully considered; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests that both the FDA and the
11 ISSC inspect and evaluate the safety of imported shellfish products with standards equal to our
12 domestic NSSP standards; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests the FDA to ensure that
14 adequate funds are available for research into methods to continue to improve shellfish sanitation
15 and to provide for proper education of producers, public health professionals, and consumers of
16 shellfish about the risks and health benefits associated with the consumption of raw shellfish; and
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg,
20 Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration, and to Mr. Kenneth B.
21 Moore, Executive Director of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference.

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