

**SENATE BILL NO. 281**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATOR ELTON BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE SALMON INDUSTRY TASK  
FORCE**

**Introduced: 1/28/04**

**Referred: Resources, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to labeling and identification of genetically modified fish and fish**  
2 **products."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 17.20.040 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 17.20.040. Misbranded foods.** (a) Food is misbranded if

6 (1) its labeling is false or misleading in any particular;

7 (2) it is offered for sale under the name of another food;

8 (3) it is an imitation of another food, unless its label bears, in type of  
9 uniform size and prominence, the word "imitation" and, immediately thereafter, the  
10 name of the food imitated;

11 (4) its container is made, formed, or filled so as to be misleading;

12 (5) it is in package form unless it bears a label containing (A) the name  
13 and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor; and (B) an accurate  
14 statement of the quantity of the contents in terms of weight, measure, or numerical

1 count; however, under (B) of this paragraph, reasonable variations are permitted, and  
2 exemptions for small packages shall be established by regulations prescribed by the  
3 department;

4 (6) a word, statement, or other information required by or under  
5 authority of this chapter to appear on the label or labeling is not prominently placed  
6 with the conspicuousness (as compared with other words, statements, designs, or  
7 devices, in the labeling) and in terms that make it likely to be read and understood by  
8 the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use;

9 (7) it purports to be or is represented as a food for which a definition  
10 and standard of identity has been prescribed by regulations as provided by  
11 AS 17.20.010, unless (A) it conforms to the definition and standard, and (B) its label  
12 bears the name of the food specified in the definition and standard and the common  
13 names of optional ingredients other than spices, flavoring, and coloring present in the  
14 food as required by regulation;

15 (8) it purports to be or is represented as (A) a food for which a  
16 standard of quality has been prescribed by regulations, and its quality falls below that  
17 standard, unless its label bears, in the manner and form the regulations specify, a  
18 statement that it falls below that standard; or (B) a food for which a standard of fill of  
19 container has been prescribed by regulation as provided by AS 17.20.010 and it falls  
20 below the applicable standard of fill of container, unless its label bears, in the manner  
21 and form as the regulations specify, a statement that it falls below that standard;

22 (9) it is not subject to the provisions of (7) of this subsection, unless it  
23 bears labeling clearly giving (A) the common or usual name of the food, if any, and  
24 (B) in case it is fabricated from two or more ingredients, the common or usual name of  
25 each ingredient; except that, however, spices, flavorings, and colorings, other than  
26 those sold as such, may be designated as spices, flavorings, and colorings, without  
27 naming each; however, to the extent that compliance with the requirements of (B) of  
28 this paragraph is impracticable, or results in deception or unfair competition,  
29 exemptions shall be established by regulations adopted by the department, but the  
30 requirements of (B) of this paragraph do not apply to food products that are packaged  
31 at the direction of purchasers at retail at the time of sale, the ingredients of which are

1 disclosed to the purchasers by other means in accordance with regulations adopted by  
2 the department;

3 (10) it purports to be or is represented for special dietary uses, unless  
4 its label bears information concerning its vitamin, mineral, and other dietary properties  
5 the commissioner determines to be, and by regulations prescribes as, necessary in  
6 order fully to inform purchasers as to its value for those uses;

7 (11) it bears or contains artificial flavoring, artificial coloring, or  
8 chemical preservative, unless it bears labeling stating that fact; however, to the extent  
9 that compliance with the requirements of this paragraph is impracticable, exemption  
10 shall be established by regulations adopted by the department;

11 (12) the food is a farmed halibut, salmon, or sablefish product, unless

12 (A) the product is labeled to identify the product as farmed fish  
13 raised outside the state, if the product is sold in a packaged form; or

14 (B) the product is conspicuously identified as farmed fish  
15 raised outside the state, if the product is sold in an unpackaged form;

16 (13) the labeling or advertisement of the food is inconsistent with the  
17 labeling or advertisement provisions of AS 17.20.048;

18 **(14) the food is a genetically modified fish or genetically modified**  
19 **fish product unless**

20 **(A) the food is conspicuously labeled to identify the fish or**  
21 **fish product as a genetically modified fish or fish product if the fish or fish**  
22 **product is sold in a packaged form; or**

23 **(B) the food is conspicuously identified as a genetically**  
24 **modified fish or fish product if the fish or fish product is sold in an**  
25 **unpackaged form.**

26 (b) In [(a)(12) OF] this section,

27 **(1)** "farmed halibut, salmon, or sablefish product" means a food  
28 product that contains halibut, salmon, or sablefish that is propagated, farmed, or  
29 cultivated in a facility that grows, farms, or cultivates finfish in captivity or under  
30 positive control but that is not a salmon hatchery that is owned by the state or that  
31 holds a salmon hatchery permit under AS 16.10.400; in this **paragraph**

1 [SUBSECTION], "positive control" has the meaning given in AS 16.40.199;

2 **(2) "genetically modified fish" means**

3 **(A) a finfish or shellfish whose genetic structure has been**  
4 **altered at the molecular level by means that are not possible under natural**  
5 **conditions or processes, including recombinant DNA and RNA techniques,**  
6 **cell fusion, gene deletion or doubling, introduction of exogenous genetic**  
7 **material, alteration of the position of a gene, or similar procedure;**

8 **(B) the progeny of a finfish or shellfish described in (A) of**  
9 **this paragraph;**

10 **(3) "genetically modified fish product" means a product prepared**  
11 **from a genetically modified fish.**