

Offered: 4/7/88  
Referred: Rules

5-0924N

Original sponsor: Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the labeling of irradiated  
6 food.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the exposure of food to radiation has been promoted by the  
9 United States government for many years to prolong the shelf life of food  
10 by killing organisms, such as insects, mold, and bacteria, that damage  
11 food; and

12 WHEREAS over the past two decades pork, potatoes, wheat, and more than  
13 60 spices have been approved for radiation by the United States Food and  
14 Drug Administration but the irradiation process has not been widely used in  
15 this country; and

16 WHEREAS on April 18, 1986, the Food and Drug Administration extended  
17 its approval of irradiation to all fruits and vegetables and required the  
18 labeling of food at the wholesale and retail levels with the words "TREATED  
19 WITH RADIATION" or "TREATED BY IRRADIATION" and a picture of the interna-  
20 tional symbol for radiation, a stylized tulip; and

21 WHEREAS the labeling requirements do not extend to food products that  
22 contain irradiated ingredients, and the Food and Drug Administration is  
23 considering removing the "TREATED WITH RADIATION" and "TREATED BY IRRADIA-  
24 TION" labeling requirement before irradiated foods arrive in large quan-  
25 tities on grocery store shelves; and

26 WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration states flatly that after  
27 reviewing all pertinent data it has not found a reason to be concerned  
28 about the safety of consuming food that has been irradiated within the  
29 dosage levels specified by federal regulations; and

1       WHEREAS, aside from concern about the reliability of the Food and Drug  
2 Administration studies, American consumers are entitled to know whether the  
3 foods, and the components of the food, that they purchase have been irradi-  
4 ated so that they can make their food choices accordingly; and

5       WHEREAS the long history of stringent labeling requirements for the  
6 chemical additives and ingredients in food provides ample precedent for the  
7 labeling of irradiated foods as irradiated;

8       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
9 the United States Food and Drug Administration to adopt regulations requir-  
10 ing food whose components have been irradiated to be labeled as "irra-  
11 diated" and to continue the current labeling regulations; and be it

12       FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that this resolution  
13 constitutes the official position and commentary of the Alaska State Legis-  
14 lature on 21 CFR 179.26(c)(1) and (2), which relate to the labeling of  
15 irradiated foods.

16       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
17 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Frank E. Young,  
18 Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration; and to the  
19 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
20 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-  
21 tion in Congress.