

SJR

23

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: March 10, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/13/89

The HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

SJR 23

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Relating to the labeling of irradiated food.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with _____ [] the same title
[] have attached amendment(s) [] a new title
[X] do pass
[] do not pass
[] no recommendation
[] individual recommendations
[] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____
[] zero fiscal note _____
[] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) _____
[X] zero fiscal note(s) 3/2/89 DHSS
[] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

Mark Boyer

Cheri Davis

Ed Thurby

J. Ellis

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend

J. Ellis
Chairman's signature



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

REC'D MAR 14 1989

March 13, 1989

TO: Representative Johnny Ellis
Chairman, House HESS Committee

FROM: Senator Jay Kerttula *JK/rt*

SUBJECT: Senate Joint Resolution 23, relating
to the labeling of irradiated food

Jim/Jan

I would greatly appreciate your scheduling SJR 23 for hearing in the House HESS Committee at your earliest possible convenience.

I introduced SJR 33 last session and it passed both houses of the Legislature. SJR 33 requested that the Food and Drug Administration extend the expiration date on the labeling requirement for irradiated foods. The Food and Drug Administration has now extended the requirement until 1990.

Rather than requesting such extensions every two years, SJR 23 simply requests that the Food and Drug Administration permanently adopt the current labeling requirement for irradiated foods so that consumers know that they are buying treated foods. Even proponents of irradiation have little argument against the consumer's right to know what he or she is eating.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I will be preparing a packet of information for distribution to committee members and please contact Paula Terrel in my office if you have any questions.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Labeling of Irradiated
Food
Sponsor: Kertulla
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: State Health Services
Components: Laboratory Services

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Elizabeth Ward, Director *E. Ward* Phone: 465-2090
Division: Public Health Date: 2/21/89
Approved by Commissioner: Myra H. Munson *Myra H. Munson* Date: 2/21/89
Agency: Health and Social Services


Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

The Department of Environmental Conservation strongly supports this resolution.

Because of the small amounts of irradiated food produced in the United States, it may be many years before the international tulip symbol, signifying irradiated food, is commonly recognized by the public. Since some people have concerns about the safety of irradiated foods and others may actually prefer them to products which have been treated with pesticides, maintaining the written labeling requirements will allow all consumers to easily recognize irradiated products and make an informed decision when purchasing food.

The uncertainty resulting from FDA's temporary labelling requirements, generates confusion and may predispose many people to oppose irradiation of food products because they are uncertain that they will be able to avoid them in the marketplace.

FDA should be encouraged to take the responsible action of making the written labeling requirements mandatory indefinitely. This resolution is an excellent means of communicating that the public wishes them to do so.


Doyle Dorega 4/13/89