
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 185 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY BUNT, PERZEL, RYAN, BARLEY, TRUE, D. W. SNYDER,
ZUG, SATHER, ARMSTRONG, HERSHEY, SCHULER, STAIRS, KREBS,
STERN, MILLER, MCGILL, MAITLAND, CLARK, SHEEHAN, MAJOR,
SERAFINI, FEESE, GODSHALL, FARGO, DENT, ALLEN, HESS,
PHILLIPS, BAKER, CHADWICK, FICHTER AND CORNELL, JUNE 26, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JUNE 26, 1995

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the United States Department of Agriculture to
2 correct certain unfair and misleading labeling of food.

3 WHEREAS, Consumers in Pennsylvania have the right to base
4 food purchases based upon clear and readily understood product
5 labels which use terminology in accordance with conventional
6 definitions of such terms; and

7 WHEREAS, The majority of consumers in Pennsylvania believe
8 that the term "fresh," when used on food labels, means that the
9 product has not been subject to any curing, canning, freezing,
10 drying or other process that would substantially alter its "raw"
11 or "fresh" status; and

12 WHEREAS, The majority of the consumers in Pennsylvania
13 understand the term "frozen" to mean that the temperature of the
14 product has been reduced to 32 degrees fahrenheit or lower for a
15 significant period of time; and

16 WHEREAS, Current United States Department of Agriculture

1 regulations define a product as "frozen" only if its internal
2 temperature is zero degrees fahrenheit or below, thus allowing
3 any product kept at a temperature above zero degrees fahrenheit
4 to be labeled "fresh"; and

5 WHEREAS, This is misleading and confusing to Pennsylvania
6 consumers; and

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania-based broiler, or meat-bird
8 industry, comprises a substantial portion of the total
9 agricultural industry in this Commonwealth producing in excess
10 of 113,900,000 such birds annually with a value to farmers in
11 excess of \$183,000,000; and

12 WHEREAS, These Pennsylvania-based producers of meat-type
13 poultry and the Pennsylvania-based processors and marketers of
14 such product are capable and desirous of marketing such products
15 on what has been traditionally understood to be a "fresh" basis,
16 but must compete for the consumer dollar with products that the
17 consumer would consider to be "frozen" but may be labeled as
18 "fresh"; and

19 WHEREAS, This policy puts Pennsylvania consumers, producers,
20 processors and marketers of poultry meat products in an unfair
21 position; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly request that the United
23 States Department of Agriculture immediately proceed with all
24 actions necessary to correct this unfair and misleading
25 situation by a comprehensive review and revision of all
26 departmental regulations governing the labeling of "fresh" and
27 "frozen" poultry meat products; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately
29 transmitted to the United States Secretary of Agriculture.