

2017 -- S 0919

LC002775

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION  
TO WORK TO DELAY AND REVISE THE FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT AND  
ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Coyne, Calkin, Kettle, and Miller

Date Introduced: May 30, 2017

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island agriculture is an important and growing sector of the state's  
2 economy with over 1,200 farms employing more than 2,500 workers, according to the University  
3 of Rhode Island's 2015 study, The Economic Impact of Rhode Island Plant-Based Industries and  
4 Agriculture; and

5           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's farms are predominantly small-scale family run businesses  
6 that have made the state a national leader in the quantity of fresh fruits and vegetables sold  
7 directly from the farm to consumers; and

8           WHEREAS, A strong local food system creates growth in many related businesses from  
9 food processors, to storage facilities and transportation networks, to restaurants and tourism; and

10           WHEREAS, The Food Safety Modernization Act was signed into law in 2011 to prevent  
11 food contamination at its source; and

12           WHEREAS, The American public deserves access to the safest food in the world, and an  
13 important way to meet that goal is through policy that prevents food contamination; and

14           WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration lacks the level of expertise and trust to  
15 allow it to effectively regulate food production; and

16           WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture understands the complexities  
17 of food growing and has the trust of American farmers; and

18           WHEREAS, Implementation of policy to prevent food contamination should therefore be  
19 overseen by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

1           WHEREAS, Farmers are justifiably concerned that they have no power to prevent some  
2 types of food contamination, but they will still be the ones who are punished for it under the Food  
3 Safety Modernization Act; and

4           WHEREAS, According to the Rhode Island Farm Bureau, a significant amount of  
5 contamination takes place post production, often at the supermarket or at home by consumers;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Another reported source of contamination beyond the control of farmers is  
8 contamination from wildlife; and

9           WHEREAS, Small farms will reportedly be forced out of business trying to meet the  
10 unattainable Food Safety Modernization Act standards; now, therefore be it

11          RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that failing such  
12 improvement, the Food Safety Modernization Act be repealed; and be it further

13          RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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