

INTERIM RESOLUTION 2015-007

REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AMEND THE FOOD ALLERGEN LABELING AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT TO INCLUDE MAMMALIAN PRODUCTS ON THE LIST OF MAJOR FOOD ALLERGENS AND REQUIRE LABELING OF THE ALPHA-GAL-CONTAINING MEDICATIONS, COSMETICS, AND OTHER PRODUCTS; AND TO URGE THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE MAMMALIAN PRODUCTS ON THE LIST OF MAJOR FOOD ALLERGENS AND SUPPORT THE LABELING OF ALPHA-GAL-CONTAINING MEDICATIONS, COSMETICS, AND OTHER PRODUCTS.

WHEREAS, galactose-alpha-1, 3-galactose, commonly known as Alpha-gal, is a carbohydrate produced by mammals; and

WHEREAS, the galactose carbohydrate can be found in mammalian meat, dairy, and other products derived from mammalian sources including gelatin, glycerin, and magnesium stearate; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-gal allergies are a reaction to galactose-alpha-1, 3-galactose, when the body is overloaded with immunoglobulin E antibodies on contact with the galactose carbohydrate; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-gal allergies were first reported in a medical journal in 2007; and

WHEREAS, a typical allergic reaction to Alpha-gal has a delayed onset, occurring three to eight (3-8) hours after the consumption of mammalian meat, dairy, or other products derived from mammalian sources, instead of the typical rapid onset with most food allergies; and

WHEREAS, allergic reactions to Alpha-gal vary but can include hives, swelling of the skin, anaphylaxis, and death; and

WHEREAS, bites from the lone star tick, which transfer the galactose carbohydrate to the victim, have been implicated in the development of this

1 delayed allergic response that is triggered by the consumption of mammalian
2 meat, dairy, or other products derived from mammalian sources; and
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4 WHEREAS, Alpha-gal allergies most often occur in the central and
5 southern states, such as Arkansas, where the lone star tick is more
6 prevalent; and
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8 WHEREAS, since the reaction to eating mammalian meat, dairy, or other
9 products derived from mammalian sources is delayed by several hours, an
10 Alpha-gal allergy is often misdiagnosed or not identified; and
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12 WHEREAS, no official statistics have been collected or reported on the
13 incidence of Alpha-gal allergies; and
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15 WHEREAS, since 2007, researchers across the globe in Australia, France,
16 Spain, Japan, Germany, Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Central America, and the
17 United States have recorded cases of the Alpha-gal allergy; and
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19 WHEREAS, in Arkansas, two hundred seventy (270) patients were diagnosed
20 between January 2013 and September 2015 in thirty-three (33) of the seventy-
21 five (75) counties in Arkansas; and
22

23 WHEREAS, at least two (2) members of the General Assembly suffer from
24 the Alpha-gal allergy; and
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26 WHEREAS, people who are affected by the Alpha-gal allergy have to be
27 constantly vigilant about the products they consume because an allergic
28 reaction can be severe and life-threatening; and
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30 WHEREAS, mammalian meat, dairy, or other products derived from
31 mammalian sources are not easily identifiable; and
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33 WHEREAS, information about mammalian-derived products in medication is
34 difficult to obtain, unclear, inconsistently reported, and sometimes
35 incorrect, according to British researchers; and
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1 WHEREAS, gelatin derived from mammals can be used as a clarifying agent
2 in fruit juice and wine, can be used as a binding agent in some tablets,
3 capsules, and suppositories, and can otherwise be found in candy, food
4 thickeners, dips, glazes, icing, fat substitutes, sausage coatings, salami,
5 tinned hams, shampoo, collagen implants, sutures, and contact lenses; and
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7 WHEREAS, glycerin is a food additive found in canned goods, candy,
8 fondant, processed fruits, jams, energy bars, medications, syrups,
9 toothpaste, mouthwash, and tobacco; and
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11 WHEREAS, magnesium stearate derived from mammals can be used as a
12 lubricating agent for nutritional supplements and medical tablets, capsules,
13 and powders, can be used as a binding agent in candy, can be used as a anti-
14 caking agent in some foods, and can otherwise be found in baby formulas; and
15

16 WHEREAS, at least one (1) patient in Arkansas with Alpha-gal allergies
17 died after taking a medication that contained Alpha-gal; and
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19 WHEREAS, in 2015, the General Assembly enacted Acts 2015 (Reg. Sess.),
20 No. 1247, which created the Task Force on Alpha-gal to "promote awareness and
21 encourage efforts to treat Alpha-gal in the state" and to "make
22 recommendations designed to improve and increase knowledge and treatment
23 throughout the state for Alpha-gal, especially for emergency room healthcare
24 professionals"; and
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26 WHEREAS, the membership of the Task Force on Alpha-gal is multifaceted
27 with members representing public health, insurance, agriculture, hospitality,
28 and medical fields; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Task Force on Alpha-gal is in the process of submitting a
31 Citizen's Petition to the United States Food and Drug Administration urging
32 the agency to support inclusion of mammalian meat, dairy, and other products
33 derived from mammalian sources on the list of major food allergens and to
34 support the labeling of Alpha-gal containing medications, cosmetics, and
35 other products; and
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1 WHEREAS, as a result of these difficulties in identifying product
2 ingredients, individual Arkansans are at risk of severe Alpha-gal allergic
3 reactions, including those that may lead to death,
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5 NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
8

9 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council:

10 (1) Encourage the United States Congress to amend the Food
11 Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004, Pub. L. No. 101-624,
12 to include mammalian meat, dairy, and other products derived from mammalian
13 sources on the list of major food allergens and require labeling of the
14 Alpha-gal-containing medications, cosmetics, and other consumer products; and

15 (2) Urge the United States Food and Drug Administration to
16 support inclusion of the mammalian meat, dairy, and other products derived
17 from mammalian sources on the list of major food allergens and support the
18 labeling of Alpha-gal-containing medications, cosmetics, and other products.
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution an appropriate
21 copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the
22 United States Food and Drug Administration, the Majority Leader of the United
23 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
24 the members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.
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26 Respectfully submitted,
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30 Representative Julie Mayberry
31 District 27
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34 By: JMB/JMB
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