

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2018

SCR 1

4
5 By: Senators B. Johnson, Caldwell
6 By: Representatives D. Douglas, Jett

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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARD OF IDENTITY
10 FOR RICE USING THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM
11 “RICE”.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARD OF
16 IDENTITY FOR RICE USING THE COMMON
17 UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM “RICE”.

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20 WHEREAS, the consumers of the State of Arkansas and of the United
21 States deserve to be protected from the negative effects of intentionally
22 misleading labeling and marketing of food products; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Rice Federation defines rice as the whole or
25 broken kernels obtained from the species *Oryza sativa* L., or wild rice
26 defined by the four species of grasses from the genus *Zizania*; and

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28 WHEREAS, consumers may be misled or confused by the labeling of food
29 products using the word “rice” in their description and marketing in a way
30 that inaccurately represents the nutritional composition of the food product;
31 and

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33 WHEREAS, meaningful food labeling should include information on actual
34 content, chemical composition, nutritional content, or potential allergy
35 concerns or potential toxicity concerns; and



1 WHEREAS, labeling of a food product that delivers no pertinent
2 information about the actual content of the food or food package and is
3 included solely to mislead is not a fair or meaningful way to enhance
4 consumer choice; and

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6 WHEREAS, consumers, food marketers, vendors, retailers, and producers
7 have called for honesty and transparency in the labeling of food products
8 made wholly of or containing rice and for the establishing of a definition
9 for the term "rice" using the common understanding of the term "rice" as
10 defined in this resolution; and

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12 WHEREAS, food products labeled or marketed using the term "rice" should
13 actually contain or be derived from rice grains or wild rice as defined in
14 this resolution,

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16 NOW THEREFORE,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
18 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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20 THAT the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic
21 Development expresses its concern that deceptive labeling and marketing of
22 food is intended to confuse consumers in an effort to replace food products
23 wholly comprised of or containing rice.

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate and the House of Representatives will
26 work to pass appropriate state legislation to establish a standard of
27 identity for rice using the common understanding of the term "rice" as
28 defined in this resolution.

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy of this
31 resolution shall be transmitted to each member of the Arkansas congressional
32 delegation, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and the Commissioner
33 of the United States Food and Drug Administration, urging them to work to
34 pass nationwide legislation to establish a standard of identity for rice
35 using the common understanding of the term "rice" as defined in this
36 resolution.