

WHEREAS, The waters of Maryland team with crab, shellfish, and fish of many varieties; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's seafood industry is an integral part of our economy and history; and

WHEREAS, A processed fish paste product, known as surimi, is manufactured to taste like and appear as crab and other seafood; and

WHEREAS, The proliferation of surimi, when improperly indentified, threatens to confuse consumers of Maryland's seafood; and

WHEREAS, The confusion of a processed imitation food product with the natural bounty of Maryland's waters impugns the integrity of our seafood industry; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

21-301.

(L) "SURIMI" MEANS AN INTERMEDIATE MANUFACTURED SEAFOOD PRODUCT DERIVED FROM MINCED FISH MEAT, WASHED TO REMOVE WATER-SOLUBLE PROTEIN AND BLOOD OR OTHER UNDESIRABLE COMPONENTS AND MIXED WITH ADDITIVES, ~~CONTAINING SUGARS OR SODIUM, OR BOTH,~~ TO ENHANCE ITS FROZEN STORAGE AND FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

21-329.

(A) UNLESS THE PACKAGING OF A FOOD PRODUCT IS CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY LABELED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, NO FOOD PRODUCT CONTAINING OR CONSISTING OF SURIMI MAY BE SOLD IN THE STATE.

(B) UNLESS ALL MENUS AND NOTICES ADVERTISING A FOOD CONTAINING OR CONSISTING OF SURIMI ARE CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY LABELED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY MAY NOT SERVE THE FOOD IN THE STATE.

(C) LABELING FOR A FOOD PRODUCT OR FOOD CONTAINING OR CONSISTING OF SURIMI SHALL INCLUDE 1 OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING TERMS, AS APPROPRIATE:

- (1) "IMITATION CRAB";
- (2) "IMITATION LOBSTER";
- (3) "IMITATION SCALLOPS";