

names for certain products; and generally relating to labeling laws and policies for allergenic ingredients in food.

WHEREAS, Approximately 6 million Americans (or 2% of the population) suffer from food allergies; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 125 deaths per year result from fatal allergic reactions to food; and

WHEREAS, Eating foods that contain even trace amounts of allergenic ingredients can lead to symptoms that range from a tingling sensation in the mouth, swelling of the tongue and the throat, difficulty breathing, hives, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, drop in blood pressure, loss of consciousness, to death; and

WHEREAS, The best way for individuals to manage food allergies is to strictly avoid foods or food additives to which they are allergic; and

WHEREAS, It is important for individuals with food allergies to be able to identify ingredients in the food they eat; and

WHEREAS, Labeling is an appropriate way to enable "hyperreactive" individuals to avoid exposure to allergenic ingredients that could trigger an allergic reaction; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with food allergies find it extremely difficult to determine whether everyday foods are safe for them or their family members to eat; and

WHEREAS, Current labeling laws and regulations make it very difficult to find safe food; and

WHEREAS, Composite food products that are the result of several producers result in hidden allergenic ingredients that can cause serious reactions; and

WHEREAS, The prevalence and seriousness of food allergies are well-known and documented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the United States Food and Drug Administration is requested to create a symbol that will be prominently displayed on food packages to alert consumers that the product contains allergenic ingredients; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FDA is requested to establish a toll-free hot line where consumers can obtain reliable food ingredient information, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FDA is requested to require that food labels specify that an allergenic ingredient, even in insignificant levels, has been used in a product; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FDA is requested to prohibit the use of generic terms such as "flavoring" and specifically require food processors and manufacturers to specify every ingredient included in generic terms; and be it further