

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 1411

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2162) to provide for the protection of the integrity of honey marketed in the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2026

Mr. STEUBE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

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# RESOLUTION

Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2162) to provide for the protection of the integrity of honey marketed in the United States, and for other purposes.

1       *Resolved*, That immediately upon adoption of this res-  
2       olution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in  
3       the House of the bill (H.R. 2162) to provide for the pro-  
4       tection of the integrity of honey marketed in the United  
5       States, and for other purposes. All points of order against  
6       consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment speci-  
7       fied in section 3 of this resolution shall be considered as  
8       adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.  
9       All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amend-

1 ed, are waived. The previous question shall be considered  
2 as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further  
3 amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening  
4 motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and  
5 controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of  
6 the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and (2) one mo-  
7 tion to recommit.

8 SEC. 2. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX and clause 8 of rule  
9 XX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 2162.

10 SEC. 3. The amendment specified in this section is  
11 as follows:

12 Strike section 1 and all that follows and insert the  
13 following:

14 **“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

15 “This Act may be cited as the ‘Honey Integrity and  
16 Consumer Transparency Act’.

17 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

18 “Congress finds the following:

19 “(1) Managed honey bees directly pollinate  
20 more than 100 crops, contributing \$20,000,000,000  
21 annually to United States agricultural security, die-  
22 tary diversity, and food system resilience.

23 “(2) Systemic economically motivated adultera-  
24 tion (EMA) of imported honey suppresses domestic

1 prices, drives down market transparency, and threat-  
2 ens the economic viability of American beekeepers.

3 “(3) The absence of a uniform, legally binding  
4 Federal Standard of Identity for honey has created  
5 an enforcement gap that allows sophisticated, highly  
6 processed, and nutritionally degraded sweeteners to  
7 be falsely marketed as pure honey.

8 **“SEC. 3. STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
11 of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act  
12 as the ‘Secretary’) shall publish a final rule establishing  
13 a Federal Standard of Identity for honey under section  
14 401 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21  
15 U.S.C. 341).

16 “(b) TECHNICAL CRITERIA AND EXPANDED  
17 SCOPE.—The standard established under subsection (a)  
18 shall—

19 “(1) incorporate the foundational identity and  
20 purity markers established within the United States  
21 Pharmacopeia Honey Standard; and

22 “(2) establish clear, binding physicochemical  
23 parameters, including but not limited to—

1           “(A) maximum allowable thresholds for  
2           Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) to identify ex-  
3           cessive heat damage;

4           “(B) minimum allowable units for Diastase  
5           enzyme activity to identify ultra-filtration or  
6           over-processing;

7           “(C) absolute moisture content limitations  
8           to verify natural ripeness and prohibit the arti-  
9           ficial vacuum dehydration of immature honey;

10           “(D) direct sugar composition profiles  
11           specifying parameters for fructose, glucose, and  
12           sucrose levels;

13           “(E) minimum proline content require-  
14           ments; and

15           “(F) oligosaccharide profile parameters  
16           evaluating the distribution of higher-order  
17           saccharides beyond monosaccharides and  
18           disaccharides, for the purpose of identifying  
19           compositions inconsistent with authentic honey  
20           or indicative of industrial sugar addition.

21           “(3) SECRETARIAL DISCRETION.—The Sec-  
22           retary shall have the ongoing administrative discre-  
23           tion to update, expand, or add additional physico-  
24           chemical markers, analytical parameters, or quality  
25           criteria to the Standard of Identity as necessary to

1 address evolving methods of economic adulteration,  
2 manufacturing, or processing.

3 “(c) DE MINIMIS SAFE HARBOR.—The Standard of  
4 Identity shall include a de minimis safe harbor to account  
5 for technically unavoidable trace residues resulting from  
6 legitimate, standard apicultural practices, including sea-  
7 sonal, non-production supplemental bee-feeding conducted  
8 to prevent hive starvation.

9 “(d) PRODUCER-LED CONSULTATION.—In promul-  
10 gating the final rule and any subsequent modifications, the  
11 Secretary shall consult with a newly established Honey  
12 Authenticity Advisory Committee. The Committee shall be  
13 composed of land-grant university forensic experts and  
14 representatives nominated by the two largest national non-  
15 profit organizations representing primary domestic honey  
16 producers. No individual or entity whose primary business  
17 focus is the commercial importation or packing of non-  
18 domestic honey may serve on the Committee.

19 **“SEC. 4. HONEY INTEGRITY PROGRAM.**

20 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
21 lish the Honey Integrity Program to ensure national com-  
22 pliance with the Standard of Identity promulgated under  
23 section 3.

24 “(b) INTERAGENCY MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-  
25 STANDING.—To prevent administrative duplication and

1 optimize Federal resources, the Secretary shall enter into  
2 a mandatory Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with  
3 the Secretary of Agriculture. The MOU shall explicitly del-  
4 egate the field-level verification, auditing, and certification  
5 of domestic honey production to the Department of Agri-  
6 culture.

7 “(c) NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PARTNER-  
8 SHIP.—The Secretary shall contract with a lead land-  
9 grant university to designate and operate the National  
10 Honey Center of Excellence. The lead land-grant univer-  
11 sity shall have the sole discretion to bring in or coordinate  
12 with additional land-grant institutions, independent lab-  
13 oratories, or academic resources as necessary to carry out  
14 the program. The Center shall:

15 “(1) Develop, optimize, and maintain an inde-  
16 pendent global authenticity reference database.

17 “(2) Validate advanced, multi-modal testing  
18 methodologies—including but not limited to Nuclear  
19 Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Profiling, Stable Iso-  
20 tope Ratio Mass Spectrometry (SIRA/EA–IRMS/  
21 LC–IRMS), and Liquid Chromatography–Mass Spec-  
22 trometry (LC–MS)—to establish a comprehensive  
23 ‘Honey Fingerprint’.

24 “(3) Submit validated analytical protocols and  
25 reference data to the Secretary for official adoption

1 as the formal enforcement methodologies of the  
2 Honey Integrity Program.

3 “(d) ORTHOGONAL TESTING REQUIREMENT (RISK-  
4 BASED).—The Secretary shall require that any honey  
5 shipment designated as moderate- or high-risk, or flagged  
6 for anomaly under screening protocols, be evaluated using  
7 not fewer than two scientifically independent analytical  
8 methodologies. Such methodologies must differ in analyt-  
9 ical principle (including isotopic, spectrometric,  
10 chromatographic, or genomic approaches) and shall collec-  
11 tively be sufficient to detect compositional, isotopic, and  
12 structural adulteration.

13 “(e) RISK-BASED DUAL COMPLIANCE TRACKS.—

14 “(1) THE CERTIFIED DOMESTIC TRACK.—Do-  
15 mestic honey produced and packed within the United  
16 States by a producer verified under the USDA qual-  
17 ity assurance program established via the MOU in  
18 subsection (b) shall be deemed automatically compli-  
19 ant with the Honey Integrity Program. Such domes-  
20 tic honey shall be exempt from mandatory per-batch  
21 forensic laboratory testing. Domestic honey pro-  
22 ducers shall remain eligible for reduced testing re-  
23 quirements only if they do not handle, blend, or  
24 process imported honey.

1           “(2) THE IMPORT AND NON-CERTIFIED  
2 TRACK.—All honey introduced or delivered for intro-  
3 duction into United States commerce that is not cer-  
4 tified under paragraph (1) shall be subject to a  
5 strict risk-based mandatory testing regime. Such  
6 honey must be sampled using statistically valid lot-  
7 sampling protocols and tested at an approved,  
8 United States-based laboratory. The Secretary shall  
9 not rely upon certificates of analysis, testing data, or  
10 origin paperwork issued by foreign laboratories or  
11 foreign governmental bodies as sufficient evidence of  
12 compliance.

13           “(f) RIGHT TO RE-ANALYSIS.—Any commercial im-  
14 porter or packer whose lot is flagged as non-compliant by  
15 the Honey Integrity Program shall have the administra-  
16 tive right to an independent second verification test, con-  
17 ducted at the owner’s expense. The confirmatory test must  
18 be performed by a separate, independent United States  
19 laboratory selected from an approved list maintained by  
20 the National Honey Center of Excellence.

21           “(g) PROGRAM USER FEES.—The operational costs  
22 of the Honey Integrity Program and the National Honey  
23 Center of Excellence shall be funded through user fees as-  
24 sessed exclusively upon commercial honey importers and  
25 large-scale packers of imported honey. All domestic honey

1 producers and packers handling exclusively 100 percent  
2 domestic honey are explicitly exempt from any fees or as-  
3 sessments levied under this Act.

4 “(h) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act or the  
5 establishment of the Honey Integrity Program shall be  
6 construed to limit, alter, or replace the statutory authority  
7 of the Secretary to enforce any other provision of the Fed-  
8 eral Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et  
9 seq.). The Secretary explicitly retains all standalone au-  
10 thority to pursue civil, administrative, or criminal rem-  
11 edies for the general adulteration, economic adulteration,  
12 or misbranding of food introduced into interstate com-  
13 merce.

14 “(i) MASS BALANCE AND TRACEABILITY REQUIRE-  
15 MENT.—Importers, blenders, and commercial packers of  
16 honey shall maintain verifiable records sufficient to dem-  
17 onstrate that the total volume of honey sold does not ex-  
18 ceed the volume of authenticated honey purchased or im-  
19 ported.

20 **“SEC. 5. SYSTEMIC TARGETING AND TRANSPARENCY**  
21 **TOOLS.**

22 “(a) AI/ML PREDICTIVE TARGETING MODEL.—Pur-  
23 suant to improving enforcement efficiency and as proposed  
24 under agency compliance planning, the Secretary, in co-  
25 ordination with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and

1 Border Protection (CBP), shall integrate artificial intel-  
2 ligence and machine learning predictive modeling into im-  
3 port targeting systems. The model shall cross-reference  
4 trade movement statistics, shipping manifests, and histor-  
5 ical transshipment patterns to intercept high-risk fraudu-  
6 lent shipments at ports of entry.

7 “(b) CENTRALIZED HONEY FRAUD REGISTRY.—To  
8 enhance market transparency and deter bad actors, the  
9 Secretary shall publish and maintain a live, centralized,  
10 and publicly accessible database to be known as the Honey  
11 Fraud Registry. The registry shall log all final, confirmed  
12 administrative and civil violations under this Act, explicitly  
13 identifying the names of the violating importers, commer-  
14 cial packers, foreign suppliers, and associated brand  
15 names.

16 **“SEC. 6. DISPOSITION OF NONCOMPLIANT COMMODITIES.**

17 “(a) IMPORTED COMMODITIES.—Any imported lot la-  
18 beled as honey that fails to comply with the Standard of  
19 Identity established under Section 3 shall be issued a man-  
20 datory refusal of admission. The owner of the refused  
21 commodity shall have a maximum of 90 days to safely re-  
22 export the shipment out of United States jurisdiction. If  
23 the shipment is not re-exported within 90 days, it shall  
24 be subject to mandatory destruction under Federal over-  
25 sight at the owner’s expense. Fraudulent or non-compliant

1 imports shall not be permitted to be re-labeled, down-  
2 graded, or re-classified as industrial sweetener, bakery  
3 syrup, or any other food ingredient for sale within the  
4 United States.

5       “(b) DOMESTIC COMMODITIES.—In the case of do-  
6 mestic honey determined by the Secretary to fail the  
7 Standard of Identity solely due to quality or processing  
8 parameters (such as elevated HMF or depressed Diastase  
9 activity) but verified to be 100 percent pure bee product,  
10 the Secretary may permit the domestic producer to re-  
11 label and legally divert the product into secondary animal  
12 feed or commercial baking ingredient channels.

13 **“SEC. 7. TRANSITION RULES.**

14       “(a) INTERIM CERTIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE  
15 STEP.—Prior to the final publication and effective date  
16 of the comprehensive Federal Standard of Identity re-  
17 quired under Section 3, all imported honey and domestic  
18 blends shall be required to submit a verified Certification  
19 of Testing as a condition of entry or commercial distribu-  
20 tion.

21       “(b) TESTING PROTOCOLS.—The Certification of  
22 Testing required under subsection (a) shall confirm that  
23 the lot has undergone analytical evaluation demonstrating  
24 authenticity and the absence of foreign sugars. The type,  
25 methodology, and frequency of such testing shall follow

1 best practices established and periodically updated by the  
2 National Honey Center of Excellence.

3 “(c) **COMMERCIAL SAFE HARBOR.**—To prevent log-  
4 jams at major shipping ports during database implementa-  
5 tion, the Secretary shall permit provisional entry under  
6 bond for any lot possessing a valid Certification of Testing  
7 as outlined in this section. This interim rule shall expire  
8 immediately upon the implementation of the final rule  
9 under Section 3.

10 **“SEC. 8. MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING**  
11 **(COOL) FOR HONEY.**

12 “(a) **INCLUSION AS COVERED COMMODITY.**—Section  
13 281(2)(A) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7  
14 U.S.C. 1638(2)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the  
15 following new clause:

16 ““(xii) Honey.’.

17 “(b) **SPECIFIC LABELING DESIGNATIONS FOR**  
18 **BLENDS.**—Section 282(a) of the Agricultural Marketing  
19 Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638a(a)) is amended by adding  
20 at the end the following new paragraph:

21 ““(5) **SPECIAL ORIGIN NOTICE FOR HONEY.**—

22 ““(A) **ORDER OF PREDOMINANCE.**—In the  
23 case of retail packages containing a blend of  
24 honeys originating from multiple nations, the  
25 label shall explicitly list all countries of origin

1 in exact descending order of predominance by  
2 weight.

3 ““(B) THE 5-PERCENT DISCLOSURE  
4 FLOOR.—A country of origin shall only be re-  
5 quired to be listed in the blend disclosure state-  
6 ment if the honey sourced from that specific na-  
7 tion constitutes 5 percent or more of the total  
8 net weight of the retail package.

9 ““(C) USA PROTECTION PRINCIPLE.—The  
10 terms “United States”, “USA”, or “Product of  
11 USA” may only be positioned in the leading,  
12 first position of the country of origin statement  
13 if the United States is the primary country of  
14 origin by weight within the container.

15 ““(D) VISUAL CONSPICUITY (THE ORIGIN  
16 BOX).—The origin notification required under  
17 this paragraph shall be prominently displayed  
18 on the Principal Display Panel (front label) of  
19 the retail package, or enclosed within a highly  
20 visible, conspicuous, and bordered graphic  
21 known as an “Origin Box”.’.

22 ““(c) SMALL DOMESTIC PRODUCER SAFE HARBOR.—  
23 The Secretary of Agriculture shall, through notice-and-  
24 comment rulemaking, establish a small producer safe har-  
25 bor definition based on annual volume or revenue. Small-

1 scale domestic apiaries meeting this definition shall be ex-  
2 empt from the retail COOL labeling requirements of this  
3 section, provided the honey sold is 100 percent domesti-  
4 cally produced and packed.”.

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