

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1232

To require country of origin labeling of perishable agricultural commodities imported into the United States and to establish penalties for violations of such labeling requirements.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 1997

Mr. BONO (for himself, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. NEY, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. MICA, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. HUNTER, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. KING, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GOSS, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP, and Ms. KAPTUR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To require country of origin labeling of perishable agricultural commodities imported into the United States and to establish penalties for violations of such labeling requirements.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Imported Produce La-  
5       beling Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDICATION OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF IMPORTED**  
2 **PERISHABLE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the  
4 terms “perishable agricultural commodity” and “retailer”  
5 have the meanings given such terms in section 1(b) of the  
6 Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930 (7 U.S.C.  
7 499a(b)).

8 (b) NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REQUIRED.—  
9 A retailer of a perishable agricultural commodity imported  
10 into the United States shall inform consumers, at the final  
11 point of sale to consumers, of the country of origin of the  
12 perishable agricultural commodity.

13 (c) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION.—The information  
14 required by subsection (b) may be provided to consumers  
15 by means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other clear  
16 and visible sign on the imported perishable agricultural  
17 commodity itself or on the package, display, holding unit,  
18 or bin containing the commodity at the final point of sale  
19 to consumers. If the imported perishable agricultural com-  
20 modity is already individually labeled regarding country  
21 of origin by the packer, importer, or another person, the  
22 retailer shall not be required to provide any additional in-  
23 formation in order to comply with this section.

24 (d) VIOLATIONS.—If a retailer fails to indicate the  
25 country of origin of an imported perishable agricultural  
26 commodity as required by subsection (b), the Secretary of

1 Agriculture may impose a monetary penalty on the retailer  
2 in an amount not to exceed—

3 (1) \$1,000 for the first day on which the viola-  
4 tion occurs; and

5 (2) \$250 for each day on which the same viola-  
6 tion continues.

7 (e) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—Amounts collected under  
8 subsection (d) shall be deposited in the Treasury of the  
9 United States as miscellaneous receipts.

10 (f) APPLICATION OF SECTION.—This section shall  
11 apply with respect to perishable agricultural commodities  
12 imported into the United States after the end of the six-  
13 month period beginning on the date of the enactment of  
14 this section.

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