

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1042

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 1997

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. JOHNSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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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 the 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 the 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 of the perishable agricultural commodity to  
 12 consumers, of the country of origin of the perishable agri-  
 13 cultural commodity.

14 (c) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The information required by  
 16 subsection (b) may be provided to consumers by  
 17 means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other  
 18 clear and visible sign on the imported perishable agri-  
 19 cultural commodity or on the package, display,  
 20 holding unit, or bin containing the commodity at the  
 21 final point of sale to consumers.

22 (2) LABELED COMMODITIES.—If the imported  
 23 perishable agricultural commodity is already individ-  
 24 ually labeled regarding country of origin by the  
 25 packer, importer, or another person, the retailer

1        shall not be required to provide any additional infor-  
2        mation to comply with this section.

3        (d) VIOLATIONS.—If a retailer fails to indicate the  
4        country of origin of an imported perishable agricultural  
5        commodity as required by subsection (b), the Secretary of  
6        Agriculture may impose a monetary penalty on the retailer  
7        in an amount not to exceed—

8                (1) \$1,000 for the first day on which the viola-  
9        tion occurs; and

10               (2) \$250 for each day on which the same viola-  
11        tion continues.

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

15        (f) APPLICATION OF SECTION.—This section shall  
16        apply with respect to a perishable agricultural commodity  
17        imported into the United States after the end of the 6-  
18        month period beginning on the date of the enactment of  
19        this section.

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