

SESSION OF 2002

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5037**

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

Sub. for HCR 5037 would urge the United States government to aggressively respond to trade issues and the spread of Karnal bunt, maintain export markets, and provide leadership. Karnal bunt is a fungal disease which affects wheat, durum, and triticale (a hybrid of wheat and rye).

In addition, the resolution would urge the United States Congress to enact revisions to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate shipment and marketing of meat products by state inspected meat processing facilities. The resolution also would urge Congress to enact country of origin labeling requirements for certain beef, lamb, pork, farm-raised fish, and certain other products and to amend the farm bill, currently under consideration, to include these labeling requirements.

Background

The original concurrent resolution was introduced by the 2001 Special Committee on Agriculture as a result of its study of the threat of Karnal bunt to the Kansas wheat crop. Karnal bunt was first found in the United States in 1996. Most recently it was discovered in four north central Texas counties. Concern has been expressed about the potential spread of Karnal bunt northward into Kansas primarily through contaminated custom harvesting equipment.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.accesskansas.org/legislature/>

Amendments were made to the concurrent resolution to reflect the most recent information regarding the needed actions of the federal government in order to contain the spread of Karnal bunt into the Kansas wheat crop.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to urge Congress to allow interstate shipment and marketing of state inspected meat products and to enact country of origin labeling requirements for certain beef, lamb, pork, farm-raised fish, and other perishable agricultural commodities or peanuts.