

Stephanie L. Robichaux

Mr. Hamilton

There Ought To Be A Law Essay Contest

26 October 2003

Gloves, The Healthy Alternative

It's been another long, tiring day. I'm leaving school and my stomach growls so I decide to pull in to the nearest fast-food joint. I have the craving for Mexican food, so Taco Bell seems like a great idea. The drive-through line is too long so I decide to get out my car and order inside. I'm greeted with a warm, friendly, "Hi, may I help you?" and I reply, "Yes, I'd like a taco supreme, one burrito, and a small diet Pepsi, please." I see the employees diligently at work behind the counter, hurrying to meet the demands of us, the taco-lovers. I see one girl scratch her head and sigh as the orders flood onto the computer screen. I notice something a bit disturbing among this hustle and bustle; there's something wrong with what I see. My stomach drops as I realize that the workers, who are touching my food, are not wearing gloves. Being the "germ-freak" that I am, a million thoughts race through my head, "Where have their hands been? Who knows if that guy really washed his hands before he left the bathroom?" My thoughts are suddenly interrupted by a shout of, "Number 71, your order's ready!!!" I reluctantly grab the bag of food as I give the boy a polite smile. By now my appetite is ruined and I think to myself, "There ought to be a law that requires these people to wear gloves when preparing my food."

At this time, there is no Louisiana law that states whether or not fast food and restaurant employees are required to wear plastic gloves while preparing and/or serving food. The power to create laws dealing with sanitation does not lie with the state legislature; rather, the Department of Health and Sanitation is responsible. The department is given the power to enforce a sanitary

code for the entire state, which includes a provision for the improvement of hygienic conditions of Louisiana; this provision gives the department rule over a large range of issues, and the particular one regarding the wearing of gloves to improve the sanitary condition of the state is not even mentioned. By creating this law in Louisiana, no existing laws would be affected or have to be altered because there are no laws that relate to this topic (RS 40:5).

The only point one could argue that would make this law seem ineffective would be that putting on and taking off these gloves will take too long especially when workers are forced to scramble during busy hours. Although this is true, the benefits of the law definitely outweigh the consequences. No harm can possibly be done by creating a law in Louisiana that forces businesses that serve food to require their employees to wear plastic gloves when handling food. Perhaps the most obvious reason is that this will drastically decrease the chance of the spread of disease. The initiation of this law would not cause businesses any financial difficulty, considering a box of one thousand disposable plastic gloves can be purchased for about five dollars (SARA Glove Co.).

This new law in Louisiana would be implemented by the Department of Health and Sanitation since it is responsible for enforcing sanitation laws, and the law's jurisdiction would include the entire state of Louisiana (RS 40:5). The creation and enforcement of this law will decrease the likelihood of any accidental spread of disease and increase sanitation overall. By establishing this law, no existing laws have to be revised, money is not a major issue, and every Louisianan who purchases food from any establishment will benefit.

Works Cited

JCM Internet Marketing. Sara Glove Co. (2003). 24 October 2003

<<http://saraglove.com/catfamilydetails.asp?cat1ID=110&cat1Name=Industrial+Gloves&cat2ID=37&cat2Name=Disposable+Gloves>>.

Louisiana State Legislature. RS 40:5. (1999). 24 October 2003

<www.legis.state.la.us/tsrs/tsrs.asp?lawbody=RS&title=40§ion=5>.