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Delaney Amendment

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DELANEY AMENDMENT. In 1958, U.S. Representative James Delaney of New York added a proviso to the 1938 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act declaring that the Food and Drug Administration cannot approve any food additive found to induce cancer in a person or animal. The clause inaugurated the federal government's role in protecting the public from cancer and eventually affected other areas of regulation, such as the Environmental Protection Agency's control of pesticides. As cancer risk became better understood and carcinogens more easily detectable, the "zero cancer risk" limit was increasingly seen by scientists and industry as an impractical standard. In 1996, Congress replaced the amendment to require a less-than one-in-a-million lifetime risk threshold.

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