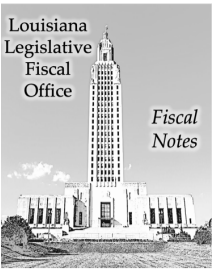


LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 676** HLS 24RS 597
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 22, 2024 6:36 PM	Author: KERNER
Dept./Agy.: Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	Analyst: Richie Anderson
Subject: Seafood Importer License	

SEAFOOD OR INCREASE SD RV See Note Page 1 of 1
 Establishes a seafood importer license for wholesale/retail dealers and retail dealers

Proposed law authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to charge a fee for the license to import seafood. Proposed law would tier the fee amount for the license based on the weight in pounds of seafood that is imported. The license would be required by anyone who is importing seafood that is caught outside the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The proposed law states that 10% of the revenue collected from the licenses be deposited in the Conservation Fund and the remainder be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund. Seafood dealers will be required to get the importer seafood dealer's license in addition to maintaining their wholesale/retail dealer's license. Proposed law will repeal the seafood safety fee charged by the Department of Health to commercial seafood permit holders.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION
 There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is able to make the proposed changes to the licensing system using existing resources and staff; however, if LDWF enforcement division is required to verify and audit the licenses it would require significant additional staff and equipment to accurately verify fees paid coincide with the volume of seafood imported.

REVENUE EXPLANATION
 LDWF anticipates an increase in predicted revenues; however, the actual amount of revenue is indeterminable. Proposed law requires that 10% must be deposited in the Conservation Fund and the remainder be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund. LDWF issues approximately 3,422 wholesale/ retail licenses annually, it remains unclear how many of these license holders engage in seafood importation and the corresponding volume of seafood they import. The amount charged for a license is determined by the weight of seafood imported as shown in the following table.

Pounds of Seafood Imported	Fee
0-5,000	\$500
5,001-20,000	\$2,000
20,001-40,000	\$5,200
40,001-60,000	\$12,000
60,001-80,000	\$22,000
80,001-100,000	\$32,000
100,001-500,000	\$42,000
500,001+	\$100,000

Proposed law would repeal a fee collected by the Louisiana Department of Health which is deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety fund; however, this fund has not had any activity in the past three fiscal years since the fund was created. In 2021 the amount estimated to be collected was \$7,500 annually, since it has not been collected since its creation the impact to the Department of Health would be negligible.

<p><u>Senate</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}</p>	<p><u>House</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}</p>
---	--

Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer