

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 676

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

SEAFOOD: Establishes a seafood importer license for wholesale/retail dealers and retail dealers

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:306(Section heading) and 306.1(Section heading), to enact  
3 R.S. 56:306(B)(8) and 306.1(B)(8), and to repeal R.S. 40:31.35(C), relative to  
4 seafood importer licenses and fees; to require licensed wholesale/retail and licensed  
5 retail dealers who import shrimp, crawfish, or crab to obtain an additional seafood  
6 importer license; to establish license fees; to establish license duration and  
7 purchasing; to allocate license revenue; to repeal a duplicative fee; and to provide for  
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 56:306(Section heading) and 306.1(Section heading) are hereby  
11 amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:306(B)(8) and 306.1(B)(8) are hereby enacted to read  
12 as follows:

13 §306. Wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license; place of business; employees;  
14 exemptions; wholesale out-of-state crab shipping license; seafood importer  
15 license

16 \* \* \*

17 B.

18 \* \* \*

19 (8)(a) In addition to the license requirements contained in this Section, any  
20 wholesale/retail seafood dealer who imports any shrimp, crawfish, or crab sourced

1 from outside of the federal exclusive economic zone (EEZ) shall be required to  
2 purchase a seafood importer license in addition to his wholesale/retail dealer's  
3 license. The seafood importer license shall be issued in the same manner as a  
4 wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license and shall be issued only to a person who is  
5 a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer.

6 (b) The license fee shall be based on the amount of shrimp, crawfish, and  
7 crab imported as follows:

<u>Pounds of Shrimp, Crawfish, and Crab Imported</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<u>0 to 5,000</u>	<u>\$500</u>
<u>5,001 to 20,000</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
<u>20,001 to 40,000</u>	<u>\$5,200</u>
<u>40,001 to 60,000</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>
<u>60,001 to 80,000</u>	<u>\$22,000</u>
<u>80,001 to 100,000</u>	<u>\$32,000</u>
<u>100,001 to 500,000</u>	<u>\$42,000</u>
<u>500,001 or more</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

17 (c) The license shall be valid for one year, beginning on January first of each  
18 calendar year and expiring on December thirty-first of the same calendar year. The  
19 license may be purchased at any time of the year for the current license year and  
20 from November fifteenth for the immediately following license year.

21 (d) Ten percent of all revenues collected from the issuance of seafood  
22 importer licenses shall be deposited into the Conservation Fund as provided for in  
23 R.S. 56:10 and the remainder shall be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety  
24 Fund as provided in R.S. 40:5.10.1.

25 §306.1. Retail seafood dealer's license; place of business; employees; retail  
26 out-of-state crab shipping license; seafood importer license

27 \* \* \*

28 B.

29 \* \* \*

1           (8)(a) In addition to the license requirements contained in this Section, any  
 2           retail seafood dealer who imports shrimp, crawfish, or crab sourced from outside of  
 3           the federal exclusive economic zone (EEZ) shall be required to purchase a seafood  
 4           importer license in addition to his retail dealer's license. The seafood importer  
 5           license shall be issued in the same manner as a retail seafood dealer's license and  
 6           shall be issued only to a person who is a licensed retail seafood dealer.

7           (b) The license fee shall be based on the amount of shrimp, crawfish, and  
 8           crab imported as follows:

<u>Pounds of Shrimp, Crawfish, and Crab Imported</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<u>0 to 5,000</u>	<u>\$500</u>
<u>5,001 to 20,000</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
<u>20,001 to 40,000</u>	<u>\$5,200</u>
<u>40,001 to 60,000</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>
<u>60,001 to 80,000</u>	<u>\$22,000</u>
<u>80,001 to 100,000</u>	<u>\$32,000</u>
<u>100,001 to 500,000</u>	<u>\$42,000</u>
<u>500,001 or more</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

18           (c) The license shall be valid for one year, beginning on January first of each  
 19           calendar year and expiring on December thirty-first of the same calendar year. The  
 20           license may be purchased at any time of the year for the current license year and  
 21           from November fifteenth for the immediately following license year.

22           (d) Ten percent of all revenues collected from the issuance of seafood  
 23           importer licenses shall be deposited into the Conservation Fund as provided in R.S.  
 24           56:10 and the remainder shall be deposited in the Imported Seafood Safety Fund as  
 25           provided in R.S. 40:5.10.1.

26           Section 2. R.S. 40:31.35(C) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 676 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Kerner

**Abstract:** Requires any wholesale/retail dealer or retail dealer that imports shrimp, crawfish, or crab to obtain an additional seafood importer license, establishes fees for the licenses, and allocates license fees to the Conservation Fund and the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

Present law requires that any person buying, acquiring, or handling from any person any species of fish for sale or resale purchase a wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license. Present law requires that any person buying, acquiring, or handling from a wholesale/retail seafood dealer any species of fish for sale to consumers for personal or household use shall purchase a retail seafood dealer's license.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires that any wholesale/retail seafood dealer and any retail seafood dealer who imports shrimp, crawfish, or crab from outside the gulf of Mexico purchase a seafood importer license in addition to the dealer license.

Proposed law provides that the fee for the seafood importer license is based on the volume of shrimp, crawfish, or crab imported as follows:

<u>Pounds of Shrimp, Crawfish, and Crab Imported</u>	<u>Fee</u>
0 to 5,000	\$500
5,001 to 20,000	\$2,000
20,001 to 40,000	\$5,200
40,001 to 60,000	\$12,000
60,001 to 80,000	\$22,000
80,001 to 100,000	\$32,000
100,001 to 500,000	\$42,000
500,001 or more	\$100,000

Proposed law provides that the seafood importer license shall be valid for one calendar year from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st and may be purchased at any time throughout the year and licenses for the following year may be purchased beginning Nov. 15th of the preceding year.

Proposed law requires that 10% of the revenue collected from the licenses be deposited in the Conservation Fund and that the remainder be deposited in the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

Present law imposes a \$100 imported seafood safety fee on commercial seafood permit holders which is collected by the La. Dept. of Health and deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

Proposed law repeals this fee.

(Amends R.S. 56:306(Section heading) and 306.1(Section heading); Adds R.S. 56:306(B)(8) and 306.1(B)(8); Repeals R.S. 40:31.35(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Make proposed law applicable to dealers that import shrimp, crawfish, or crabs specifically, rather than to dealers that import any seafood.