

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 676

2024 Regular Session

Kerner

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

DIGEST

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 or retail seafood dealer who sells seafood sourced from outside the gulf of Mexico purchase an imported seafood license in addition to the dealer license.

Proposed law provides that the fee for the imported seafood license shall be \$500 for 2025, \$600 for 2026, \$700 for 2027, \$800 for 2028, and \$900 for 2029 and thereafter.

Proposed law specifies that the imported seafood license is 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 establishes the Imported Seafood Safety Fund, provides for deposits into, and authorized uses of, the fund, and 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 fund.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that seafood imported into Louisiana and stored on the premises of a commercial seafood permittee is subject to the sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring funded by the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

Proposed law retains present law and adds seafood imported and stored on the premises of an imported seafood licensee.

(Amends R.S. 40:5.10.1 and R.S. 56:306(Section heading) and 306.1(Section heading); Adds R.S. 56:306(B)(8) and 306.1(B)(8))

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.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove a reference to fee in present law being repealed by proposed law.

2. Add monies from the seafood importer license fees under proposed law to monies deposited in and credited to the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.
3. Add seafood imported by the holder of a seafood importer license created by proposed law to seafood products subject to sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring with funds from the Imported Seafood Safety Fund in present law.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the reengrossed bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change seafood importer license to imported seafood license.
3. Remove repeal of imported seafood safety fee.
4. Make appropriations and expenditures from the Imported Seafood Safety Fund under proposed law applicable to any imported seafood, rather than to import shrimp, crawfish, or crabs specifically.
5. Make imported seafood licensing requirements under proposed law applicable to dealers of any imported seafood, rather than to imported shrimp, crawfish, or crabs specifically.
6. Change license fee from a weight-based structure to a flat fee that increases by \$100 each year through 2029.