

**GREEN SHEET REDIGEST**

**HB 652**

**2025 Regular Session**

**Kerner**

**SEAFOOD: Provides for seafood safety and testing.**

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DIGEST

Present law provides for the Seafood Safety Task Force to work in conjunction with the state health officer, office of Lt. governor, the La. Seafood Promotion and Marketing Bd., and the La. Restaurant Assoc. to employ a marketing campaign for domestic seafood.

Proposed law replaces the Seafood Safety Task Force with the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Present law creates the Seafood Safety Task Force within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Proposed law moves the Seafood Safety Task Force to the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Present law provides for the money for the Imported Seafood Safety Fund and the commercial seafood permit fee to go to the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Proposed law transfers the provisions of present law to the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Proposed law provides for seafood safety by creating regulations and testing requirements for seafood processors and distributors with civil penalties for failure to report or for violating safety provisions of proposed law and by creating reporting requirements for seafood processors and distributors.

Proposed law provides definitions for "commingled", "department", "distributor", "domestic", "processor", and "seafood".

Proposed law establishes powers of the commissioner of agriculture to oversee the testing and reporting requirements for seafood safety established by proposed law.

Proposed law provides authority for the commissioner of agriculture and forestry to administer a marketing program with the La. Seafood Promotion and Marketing Bd.

Proposed law provides for the Seafood Safety Task Force to be under the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Present law provides for testing and regulation for imported seafood by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides for the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to promulgate emergency rules necessary to implement present law.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 40:5.5.2(B)(2), 5.5.3(A), (B)(intro. para.), and (H), 5.10.1(B), and 31.35(C); adds R.S. 3:4749 - 4749.3, R.S. 36:624(C) and 629(L)(5); repeals R.S. 36:204(A)(10) and 209(D)(4), R.S.40:31.35.1, and Section 2 of Act No. 667 of the 2024 R.S.)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Change reporting requirements from "seafood processors and distributors" to "commercial processors and distributors of imported and commingled seafood".
2. Remove requirements for submitting records of imported seafood to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
3. Change the hearing procedure for violating a stop order issued by the commissioner of agriculture.
4. Make technical changes.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the reengrossed bill

1. Change civil penalty for first offense from "\$1,000" to "\$15,000"; for second offense from "\$2,500" to "\$25,000"; and for third or subsequent offense from "\$5,000" to "\$50,000".
2. Change reporting requirements from "commercial processors and distributors of imported and commingled seafood" to "seafood processors and distributors".