
DIGEST

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HB 317 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Kerner

Abstract: Establishes the Imported Seafood Safety Fund and an annual fee to support testing and monitoring for harmful substances in imported seafood to be conducted by the La. Department of Health.

Present law requires the La. Department of Health (LDH) to charge and collect an annual commercial seafood permit fee from each seafood distributor and processing plant in amounts specified in present law.

Proposed law retains present law and requires LDH to charge and collect an annual imported seafood safety fee of \$100 from each holder of a commercial seafood permit fee who sells imported seafood. Provides that the proceeds of the fee shall be used for the purposes described in proposed law.

Proposed law creates the Imported Seafood Safety Fund as a special fund in the state treasury. Provides that the proceeds of the imported seafood safety fee established by proposed law shall be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund, referred to hereafter as the "fund".

Proposed law requires that the monies in the fund be appropriated and expended solely for the purpose of sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring of raw seafood products of foreign origin that are imported into this state and stored on the premises of any commercial seafood permit holder. Requires that LDH directly administer or contract for such sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring functions.

Proposed law requires LDH to employ sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring to detect in imported seafood products the presence of substances that are harmful to human health. Provides that the state health officer of the LDH office of public health shall determine the specific types of sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring functions to be implemented as well as the frequency and scope of these activities. Authorizes the state health officer to modify the frequency and scope of such activities based upon the availability of funding to support the activities.

(Amends R.S. 40:31.35(C); Adds R.S. 40:5.10.1)