
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 Reengrossed

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,, allocates license fees to the Conservation Fund and the Imported Seafood Safety Fund, and provides for the use of the 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 specifies that the seafood importer 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 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.

Present law establishes the Imported Seafood Safety Fund and provides for deposits into the fund and authorized uses of the fund.

Proposed law removes reference to the fee being repealed by proposed law and adds that the fee under proposed law will be deposited to the fund.

Proposed law further provides that shrimp, crawfish, and crab imported by the holder of a seafood importer license created by proposed law are subject to the sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring funded by the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

(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); 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.

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.