

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 676** HLS 24RS 597

Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action: **w/ SEN COMM AMD**

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 17, 2024	12:08 PM	Author: KERNER
Dept./Agy.: Wildlife and Fisheries/Department of Health		Analyst: Richie Anderson
Subject: Imported Seafood License		

SEAFOOD RE1 INCREASE SD RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Establishes a imported seafood license for wholesale/retail dealers and retail dealers

Proposed law authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to charge a fee for the license to import seafood. Proposed law would tier the fee amount for the license increasing over the next four years, starting at \$500 in 2025 and increasing \$100 each year to \$900 in year 2029. The license would be required by anyone who is importing seafood that is sourced outside the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The proposed law states that 10% of the revenue collected from the licenses be deposited in the Conservation Fund and the remainder be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund. Seafood dealers and retailers that import seafood or sell imported seafood are required to get the imported seafood dealer's license in addition to maintaining their wholesale/retail dealer's license.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

LA Department of Health (LDH) - LDH anticipates that they will need to add one (1) additional T.O., a Sample Collector position, for the collection of imported seafood samples. LDH estimates the total annual cost to implement a collection process is anticipated to be \$215,986. The new position will be compensated at \$112,383 (salary and related benefits) and include operating services (travel costs and vehicle rental) of \$25,200. Testing will be conducted by Eurofins Central Analytical Lab on a weekly basis at a cost of approximately \$1,508 for a total projected cost of \$78,403 annually. Depending on the extent of sampling required to be conducted, LDH may require additional funding for future expenditures. The department can utilize dedications generated from the revenues estimated below out of the Imported Seafood Safety Fund for these costs. In the event this funding is not sufficient to cover costs, additional SGF appropriations would be required.

LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) - There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure. The LDWF is able to make the proposed changes to the licensing system using existing resources and staff.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

LDWF anticipates an increase in estimated revenues generated from the sale of Imported Seafood licenses; however, the actual amount of revenue is indeterminable. Proposed law requires that 10% of collections must be deposited in the Conservation Fund and the remainder be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund. LDWF issues approximately 3,422 wholesale/retail dealer and retail dealer licenses annually, it is unclear how many of these license holders engage in importation or sale of imported seafood. The initial amount charged for a license will be \$500 and is to increase annually by \$100 until it reaches \$900 in 2029.

Data is not available on the number of retail and wholesale dealers that import or sell imported seafood from outside the EEZ; however, for illustrative purposes, if 50% of the existing licensed dealers import seafood or sell imported seafood it would result in a revenue increase of \$855,500 (1,711 x \$500) in the initial year, \$1,026,600 (1,711 x \$600) in 2026, and \$1,197,700 (1,711 x \$700) in 2027. Using this example would result in an increase of \$769,950 (90%) deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund and \$85,500 (10%) into the Conservation Fund from initial year collections.

Senate
Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer