

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 719 (HB 676)

2024 Regular Session

Kerner

Existing law requires that any person buying, acquiring, or handling any species of fish for sale or resale purchase a wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license.

Existing law also 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.

New law requires that any wholesale/retail or retail seafood dealer who sells seafood sourced from outside the federal exclusive economic zone (EEZ) purchase an imported seafood license in addition to the dealer license.

New law provides that the fee for the imported seafood license is \$300.

New 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.

New 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.

Existing law establishes a commercial seafood permit for processors and distributors of seafood to be issued by the La. Dept. of Health.

Existing law further establishes an imported seafood safety fee for commercial seafood permit holders that sell imported seafood and directs that this fee be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

New law adds that the Imported Seafood Safety Fund will also be comprised of funds collected from the imported seafood license for wholesale/retail and retail seafood dealers.

Existing law provided that the Imported Seafood Safety Fund be used to sample, analyze, test, and monitor imported seafood stored on the premises of commercial seafood permit holders.

New law adds that imported seafood stored on the premises of a wholesale/retail or retail seafood dealer with an imported seafood license are also subject to the sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring provided for under the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

Existing law exempts restaurants and retail grocers from the wholesale/retail and retail seafood license requirements if they only purchase fish from licensed wholesale/retail dealers and only sell the fish fully prepared for immediate consumption by consumers.

New law clarifies that this exemption from wholesale/retail and retail dealer license requirements applies when seafood, in addition to fish, is only purchased by restaurants and retail grocers from wholesale/retail dealers and only sold fully prepared for immediate consumption by consumers.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 40:5.10.1 and R.S. 56:306(Section heading) and (B)(6) and 306.1(Section heading) and (B)(6); Adds R.S. 56:306(B)(8) and 306.1(B)(8))