
DIGEST

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HB 676 Original

2024 Regular Session

Kerner

Abstract: Requires any wholesale/retail dealer or retail dealer that imports seafood to obtain an additional seafood importer license, establishes fees for the licenses, and allocates license fees to the Conservation Fund and the Imported Seafood Safety 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 seafood 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 seafood imported as follows:

| <u>Pounds of Seafood 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 provides that the seafood importer license shall be 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.

Proposed law repeals an imported seafood safety fee charged by the Dept. of Health for commercial

seafood permit holders.

(Amends 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))