

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 676

2024 Regular Session

Kerner

SEAFOOD: Establishes a seafood importer license for wholesale/retail dealers and retail dealers

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Changes "seafood importer" license to "imported seafood" license.
3. Removes provision that would have repealed the imported seafood safety fee.
4. Makes appropriations and expenditures from the present law Imported Seafood Safety Fund applicable to any imported seafood held by an imported seafood license holder in addition to commercial seafood permit holders.
5. Makes imported seafood licensing requirements under proposed law applicable to dealers of any imported seafood, rather than to imported shrimp, crawfish, or crabs specifically.
6. Changes the license fee from a weight-based structure to a flat fee of \$300.
7. Clarifies that wholesale/retail dealer, retail dealer, and imported seafood license requirements do not apply to restaurants and retail grocers that only purchase seafood from wholesale/retail dealers and only sell such seafood fully prepared for immediate consumption by consumers.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 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. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed 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.

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

Proposed 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.

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 retains present law.

Present law provides that seafood imported into La. and stored on the premises of a

commercial seafood permittee is subject to the sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring funded by the present law Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that imported seafood stored on the premises of an imported seafood licensee are also subject to sampling, analysis, testing, and monitoring.

(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))