AN ACT PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION AND TRADE OF SHARK FINS.

SUMMARY
This bill prohibits possessing, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing a shark fin removed from a shark in violation of federal law, but these prohibitions do not apply to the smooth-hound shark or spiny dogfish. A violator is subject to a fine of up to $2,000, imprisonment of up to one year, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Federal Law
The federal Shark Conservation Act (P.L. 111-348) prohibits:

1. removing a shark fin, including the tail, at sea;

2. having a fin aboard a fishing vessel unless the fin is naturally attached to the carcass;

3. transferring a fin from one vessel to another or receiving a fin unless it is naturally attached to the carcass; and

4. landing a fin that is not naturally attached to a carcass or landing a carcass without fins naturally attached.

It exempts commercially fished smooth dogfish (Mustelus canis).

COMMITTEE ACTION
Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 29  Nay 0  (02/25/2019)