
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5224 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING SHARK FINNING.

SUMMARY

This bill generally prohibits possessing, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing a shark fin. It makes a violation an infraction. (An infraction is not a crime, and a person may pay the fine by mail or plead not guilty.)

The bill exempts from its ban people licensed or permitted to take or land sharks if they separate a fin or tail from a lawfully landed shark when preparing the shark's body for consumption, sale, trade, or distribution. This applies as long as they immediately destroy the fin or tail or use it for personal consumption or taxidermy. Additionally, the bill allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to issue a permit to possess shark fins for scientific research or educational purposes.

Under the bill, "shark" excludes rays and smooth-hound sharks. A "shark fin" is a raw, dried, or processed fin or tail that is separated from a shark's body.

Existing regulations prohibit taking, possessing, selling, exchanging, or offering for sale or exchange any of a specified list of sharks, excluding smooth-hound sharks (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 26-159a-1(e)).

*House Amendment "A" applies the bill's exemption if the shark fin or tail is used for personal consumption.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 2 (03/08/2024)