



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 55

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5224

House of Representatives, March 20, 2024

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SHARK FINNING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section: (1) "Shark" means any species of the subclass Elasmobranchii,
3 but does not include any species in the order Batoidea or any smooth-
4 hound; and (2) "shark fin" means a raw, dried or otherwise processed
5 fin or tail that is separated from the body of a shark.

6 (b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, no
7 person shall possess, sell, offer for sale, trade or distribute a shark fin.

8 (c) The prohibition contained in subsection (b) of this section shall not
9 apply to any person who holds a license or permit to take or land sharks
10 when separating a fin or tail from a lawfully landed shark during the
11 ordinary course of preparing the body of the shark for consumption,
12 sale, trade or distribution provided such fin or tail that is separated from
13 the shark shall be immediately destroyed unless it is used by such
14 person for the purpose of taxidermy.

15 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
16 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection may issue a
17 permit for the possession of shark fins for scientific research or
18 educational purposes.

19 (e) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this
20 section shall have committed an infraction and may pay the fine, by
21 mail, or plead not guilty in accordance with the provisions of section 51-
22 164n of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Less than 500	Less than 500

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which expands a regulatory prohibition on shark finning and associated commercial activities, may result in a potential minimal revenue gain to the General Fund beginning in FY 25. The potential minimal revenue gain may result from: (1) any research or educational permits involving shark fins issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as allowed by the bill; and (2) infraction revenue associated with violations of the bill's provisions.

The department does not currently offer such permits and it is anticipated few, if any, will be sought. The permit revenue gain to the General Fund is projected to be less than \$100, based on a comparable permit.

The bill creates an infraction for violations, which may result in a potential revenue gain from fines. Infractions are not crimes and are punishable by fines that usually range from \$100 to \$300. Few, if any, violations are expected.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of permits and infraction fines issued.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5224

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 or plead not guilty by mail.)

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 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)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 2 (03/08/2024)