House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 50

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 5012

House of Representatives, March 6, 2025

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF SHARK FINNING.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this section: (1) "Shark" means any species of the subclass Elasmobranchii, but does not include any species in the order Batoidea or any smooth-hound; and (2) "shark fin" means a raw, dried or otherwise processed fin or tail that is separated from the body of a shark.

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

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

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable*

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 26 $	FY 27 $
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 results in a potential revenue gain to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), beginning in FY 26, associated with the prohibition of shark finning. The revenue gain to DEEP may result from 1) infraction revenue (as a violation of the bill's provisions) or 2) any research or educational permits issued by DEEP. The potential revenue gain is anticipated to be less than $500 annually.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5012

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF SHARK FINNING.

SUMMARY

This bill generally bans 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 any associated fine by mail or plead not guilty in accordance with state law.)

The bill exempts from its ban people holding a license or permit 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, which does not include smooth-hound sharks (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 26-159a-1(e)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 35 Nay 0 (02/19/2025)