
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)