
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 577 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, ALLOWAY, SABATINA, MARTIN, RAFFERTY, COSTA
AND BROWNE, APRIL 5, 2017

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, APRIL 5, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting the sale of shark fins;
3 and imposing a penalty.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 12 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 55

9 PROHIBITION ON SALE OF SHARK FINS

10 Sec.

11 5501. Definitions.

12 5502. Prohibition.

13 5503. Penalty.

14 § 5501. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Shark fin." The raw, dried or otherwise processed detached

1 fin or the raw, dried or otherwise processed detached tail of a
2 member of the superorder selachimorpha. The term does not
3 include a drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration of
4 the Department of Health and Human Services of the United
5 States.

6 § 5502. Prohibition.

7 (a) Prohibition.--Except as provided in subsection (b), a
8 person may not possess, sell, offer for sale, trade or
9 distribute a shark fin.

10 (b) Exceptions.--

11 (1) Possession of a shark fin is permissible if:

12 (i) the shark was landed under a license from
13 another state; and

14 (ii) the shark fin is being possessed in this
15 Commonwealth for taxidermy.

16 (2) A restaurant which possesses a shark fin before the
17 effective date of this chapter may possess, sell, offer for
18 sale, trade or distribute the shark fin:

19 (i) if the shark fin is prepared for consumption;
20 and

21 (ii) no more than one year has elapsed from the
22 effective date of this chapter.

23 § 5503. Penalty.

24 A person violating section 5502 (relating to prohibition)
25 commits a summary offense. Each shark fin possessed, sold,
26 offered for sale, traded, distributed or purchased in violation
27 of section 5502 shall constitute a separate offense.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.