



## Illinois lawmakers closing in on a shark fin ban

BY ANDREW MALONEY Sun-Times Springfield Bureau/apmaloney@suntimes.com March 8, 2012 7:02PM

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois lawmakers are closing in on a shark fin ban after the state House easily passed a bill prohibiting the sale and distribution of fins on Thursday.

With virtually no floor debate, House Bill 4119 sailed through the chamber by a tally of 81-33.

"I think (the vote) was decisive, I would consider that a mandate," said Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), the bill's chief sponsor. "I'm delighted."

The bill is an effort to curtail the finning of sharks – extracting the animal's fin and throwing it back in the ocean. Shark fin soup has also long been considered an Asian delicacy.

Although it's unclear at this point, Feigenholtz said she thinks the issue will eventually be taken up by the Senate, where it will need 30 votes to pass.

However, Rep. Jack Franks (D-Marengo) said he voted against the shark fin bill because he thinks the Legislature has bigger fish to fry.

"I just thought we had more important things to be spending our time on," Franks said. "I think we should be spending our time on the budget and trying to help people. I don't know, I don't want to beat up on the sponsor, but it just didn't seem appropriate for us to be voting on."