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Illinois may ban possession of shark fins

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Illinois may be hundreds of miles from the nearest ocean, but that doesn't mean state lawmakers aren't concerned about sea life.

The Illinois House voted Thursday to ban the possession of shark fins.

Environmentalists say shark populations are dropping dramatically because of overfishing. Millions of sharks are killed for their fins, which are used to make shark fin soup.

Experts worry some shark species could be headed for extinction.

Bans have already been approved in four states — California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

The Illinois measure sponsored by Democratic Rep. Sara Feigenholtz passed 81-33. It now goes to the Senate.

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The bill is HB4119.

Online: www.ilga.gov

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2012/03/09/financial/f080952S54.DTL#ixzz1odq3c5Ne>