



# Feigenholtz shark fin ban bill sails through Illinois House

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Springfield Political Buzz Examiner

**(Chicago, IL)** - A plan to ban shark fins in Illinois won approval on Thursday by the Illinois House.

The House voted, 81-33, to prohibit the possession, sale and distribution of shark fins in Illinois.

“Cruelly destroying animals that sit on the top of the food chain threatens to disrupt the underwater ecosystem,” said State Rep. **Sara Feigenholtz** (D-Chicago), the bill’s sponsor.

*“With this bill, we can proactively protect the environment and defend the humane treatment of wild animals.”*

The legislation, [House Bill 4119](#), responds to the largely unregulated practice of shark fin hunting.

Hunters catch the sharks, cut off the fins while the animal is still alive, and toss the rest of the shark back into the ocean—often still alive—to make room on the boat for the more profitable fins.

Unable to obtain enough oxygen without their fins, the sharks eventually drown or are consumed by other animals.

The fins, an Asian delicacy, are primarily used in a soup known for its steep price tag. But they have a relatively flavorless taste.

California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii already have shark fin bans in place.

“In Illinois, we are finding that little or no restaurant opposition exists to a shark fin ban because there is so little demand for shark fin soup here,” said Feigenholtz.

In addition to Feigenholtz, the House sponsors include State Reps: **Carol Sente** (D), **Randy Ramey, Jr.** (R), **Daniel Biss** (D), and **Monique Davis** (D).

The legislation now moves to the Illinois Senate.

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