

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 207

Introduced by Nordquist, 7; Ashford, 20; Harr, 8; McGill, 26; Mello, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the impact of the possession, sale, trade, and distribution of shark fins in the State of Nebraska. Data from federal and international agencies show a decline in shark populations worldwide. The practice of shark finning, where a shark is caught, its fins cut off, and the carcass dumped back into the water, causes tens of millions of sharks to die each year. These sharks either starve to death, are slowly eaten by other fish, or suffocate because most sharks need to keep moving to force water through their gills for oxygen. Shark species are very susceptible to decline because they are slow to reach reproductive maturity and they bear small litters. Sharks occupy the top of the marine food chain, and their decline is an urgent problem that upsets the balance of species in ocean ecosystems and negatively affects other fisheries. Such decline constitutes a serious threat to the ocean ecosystem and biodiversity. The sale, trade, and distribution of shark fins in Nebraska helps drive the practice of shark finning which exacerbates the decline of the shark population and the risk of extinction. This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of consumer demand for shark fins in Nebraska and the potential impact of a ban on the possession, sale, trade, and distribution of shark fins in Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature on or before December 31, 2013.