

HB277 INTRODUCED



1 HB277
2 ZQ995KR-1
3 By Representatives Wilcox, Brown, Simpson
4 RFD: Ports, Waterways and Intermodal Transit
5 First Read: 15-Jan-26



SYNOPSIS:

Current rules prohibit possessing oysters for a commercial purpose that have been shucked or otherwise processed by an establishment without a permit from the Alabama Department of Public Health.

This bill would authorize oyster aquaculture licensees to harvest, shuck, and serve oysters from the aquaculture facility for product tasting.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to serving oysters; to authorize oyster aquaculture licensees to harvest and serve oysters from the aquaculture facility for product tasting.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the term "product tasting" means providing oysters at no cost to the consumer for sampling to determine the qualities of the oysters such as taste and texture.

(b) Notwithstanding any law or rule to the contrary, including a permit or licensure requirement, an oyster aquaculture licensee may harvest, shuck, and serve oysters



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29 from the aquaculture facility for product tasting.

30 (c) Subsection (b) shall not be construed to exempt the
31 harvest of oysters from any harvest restrictions levied
32 pursuant to Section 9-12-126, Code of Alabama 1975.

33 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
34 1, 2026.