

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 681

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring warning signs regarding mercury levels in certain fish.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 12.019 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.019. WARNING SIGN REGARDING MERCURY LEVELS IN CERTAIN FISH. (a) A retail fish dealer shall post a warning sign in a conspicuous location where it is readily visible by persons purchasing fresh or previously frozen fish. The department by rule shall specify the size and graphic design of the sign. The sign must contain the following wording:

ATTENTION WOMEN CONSIDERING BECOMING PREGNANT, PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS, AND PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Some fish and shellfish, especially large fish such as shark, swordfish, king mackerel, and tilefish, contain high levels of mercury that may harm the developing nervous system of a child.

For more information about the risks of mercury in fish and shellfish call the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's food information line toll-free at (insert toll-free telephone number).

(b) The department shall adopt rules to administer this section.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.