



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 79

LCO No. 522

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF ORGANICALLY GROWN FOODS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 21a-92a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

3 (a) No person may advertise, distribute or sell a food or food
4 supplement described as "organic", "organically grown" or "natural" or
5 described with or by words of similar meaning, unless such food or
6 food supplement complies with the definitions of "organically grown
7 food" or "natural food", as the case may be, as provided in section 21a-
8 92.

9 (b) Agricultural products or by-products that have been organically
10 grown, as defined in section 21a-92, shall be certified as organically
11 grown annually by the [certification committee of the Northeast
12 Organic Farming Association of Connecticut] Department of
13 Agriculture or a certification body recognized by the National Organic
14 Standards Board or the United States Department of Agriculture.
15 Organic certification shall include at least one annual site visit by an

16 independent inspector approved by the certification body. Such
17 certification bodies shall issue certification standards which denote
18 approved, regulated and prohibited farming practices and substances.
19 Certification standards shall be reviewed and updated annually by the
20 certification body. Agricultural products or by-products that have been
21 certified as organically grown shall not be intentionally subjected to
22 prohibited substances and shall not contain residues in excess of [one]
23 five per cent of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's
24 allowable tolerance level caused by unintentional and unavoidable
25 contamination by prohibited substances. Certified organic farming
26 shall be a production system which prohibits the use of synthetically
27 manufactured fertilizers, synthetically manufactured pesticides,
28 synthetically manufactured herbicides, synthetically manufactured
29 fungicides, synthetically manufactured growth regulators, irradiation
30 or transgenic seeds and sewage sludge. Violations of this section shall
31 be reported to the Department of Consumer Protection.

32 (c) All foods advertised, distributed or sold in violation of this
33 section shall be deemed to be misbranded under section 21a-102.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2002

Statement of Purpose:

To make Connecticut law consistent with federal law concerning the labeling of and prohibited substance tolerance level for organic foods.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]