



House Bill No. 5573

Public Act No. 05-130

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MILK REGULATION BOARD AND A STUDY OF THE CONNECTICUT DAIRY INDUSTRY.

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

Section 1. Section 22-131 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

(a) In accordance with section 4-9a, the Governor, with the advice and consent of either house of the General Assembly, shall appoint [six] eight electors of the state, two of whom are actively engaged in the sale and distribution of milk, two of whom are actively engaged in the processing of milk, two of whom have no active or financial interest in the production or sale of milk, and two of whom are actively engaged in the production of milk, which [six] eight electors, with the Commissioner of Public Health, or [his] the commissioners designee, and the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall constitute the Milk Regulation Board. The Governor, for cause, after a public hearing, may remove any appointed member of the board.

(b) The Milk Regulation Board shall keep a record of all its proceedings. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall be the chairperson of the board, shall enforce the regulations established by the board and shall further administer any other duties prescribed by

House Bill No. 5573

the board. The office of the Commissioner of Agriculture shall be the office of the board. Each of the [six] eight members of the Milk Regulation Board appointed under the provisions of this section shall receive seventy-five dollars for each day the member attends a meeting of the board. The total payments to each member shall not exceed seven hundred fifty dollars each year, such payments to be made from the appropriations made for the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Milk Regulation Board shall conduct a comprehensive study of the dairy industry in the state. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the costs of milk production, the ability of state dairy farmers to meet milk supply demands, regional milk price equity and milk supply and price issues relating to dairy farmers, consumers, processors and retailers.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Milk Regulation Board shall complete the study and report the results of such study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment.

Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the Milk Regulation Board, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the recommendations of said board made pursuant to section 2 of this act.

Approved June 24, 2005