



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 1082

LCO No. 3186

03186_____PD_

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FARM TRANSFER COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is established a
2 Farm Transfer Coordinating Committee which shall be within the
3 Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes only. The
4 committee shall consist of the Commissioner of Agriculture, or a
5 designee of the commissioner, and the following members: Two
6 farmers and one attorney with expertise in estate planning, appointed
7 by the Commissioner of Agriculture; two representatives of The
8 University of Connecticut with expertise in farm or small business
9 transfer, one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and
10 one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;
11 a representative of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association,
12 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; a
13 representative from the United States Department of Agriculture Farm
14 Service Agency, appointed by the majority leader of the House of
15 Representatives; a representative of the Council of Small Towns,
16 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, a representative

17 of First Pioneer Farm Credit, appointed by the speaker of the House of
18 Representatives; a representative of Connecticut Farmland Trust,
19 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives and
20 a representative of Working Lands Alliance, appointed by the majority
21 leader of the Senate.

22 (b) Members of the council shall receive no compensation for their
23 services on said council, but shall be reimbursed for necessary
24 expenses in the performance of their duties, within available
25 appropriations. Vacancies shall be filled by the Commissioner of
26 Agriculture. The committee shall elect a chairman and vicechairman
27 from among its members.

28 (c) The duties of the committee shall be to reduce and eliminate
29 barriers confronting farm families considering farm transfer,
30 succession or lease. The committee shall (1) identify and establish a
31 network and maintain a database of professionals with expertise in
32 planning farm transfers, successions or leases and coordinate the
33 training of such professionals; (2) sponsor educational seminars to
34 constituent groups including, but not limited to, farm families, land
35 owners and land trusts; (3) work, in consultation with the Department
36 of Agriculture on farm transfer, succession or lease; and (4) advise the
37 Commissioner of Agriculture of its activities.

38 (d) On or before December 15, 2006, and annually thereafter, the
39 committee shall submit a report on its activities, findings and
40 recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General
41 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment
42 and planning and development.

43 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Farm Transfer Coordinating
44 Committee, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, in fulfilling its
45 duties under said section 1 may (1) consult with any state, regional or
46 federal organizations involved with farm transfer, succession or lease,
47 (2) receive aid or contributions from any source, including grants-in-
48 aid from any state agency, and (3) enter into contracts.

49 Sec. 3. (Effective July 1, 2005) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
50 to the Department of Agriculture, from the General Fund, for the fiscal
51 year ending June 30, 2005, for a farm succession specialist.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To facilitate effective planning for farm succession and to increase knowledge of available options for farmers by establishing the Farm Transfer Coordinating Committee and funding the position of farm succession specialist within the Department of Agriculture.

[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.]