



Senate Bill No. 616

Public Act No. 08-13

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STATUTES.

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

Section 1. Section 22-6i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Department of Public Health WIC client screening processes and records shall provide the basis for identifying participants eligible for receipt of vouchers.

(b) Local WIC agencies shall distribute vouchers at designated distribution clinics to participants in the manner specified by the department in the program and procedures guide for distribution clinic staff. Local WIC agency services shall ensure that:

(1) Vouchers are distributed only to participants through verification that the client name and number on the distribution registry provided by the Department of Public Health correspond with the client name and number printed on the WIC identification folder in the possession of the participant.

(2) Each eligible participant is issued five [two-dollar] three-dollar vouchers during each distribution as authorized by the department.

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(3) The voucher serial numbers issued to the participant correspond to the number in the distribution registry in which the participant signature is affixed.

(4) Each voucher issued and the distribution registry are properly signed by the participant in the presence of local agency staff at the time of distribution.

(5) A proxy is not allowed to act on behalf of a participant, except in the case of a parent or legal guardian acting on behalf of a participant child or infant, or in the case of a husband acting on behalf of his wife.

(6) Each participant is provided a thorough explanation of program guidelines and participant responsibility as outlined by the department.

(7) All CFM/WIC support materials are put into use as outlined by the department.

(8) Accurate and complete records of all related CFM/WIC activities in the possession of a WIC local agency are maintained and retained for a minimum of four years. In the event of litigation, negotiation, or audit findings, the records shall be retained until all issues arising from such actions have been resolved or until the end of the regular four-year period, whichever is later.

(9) All agency records pertaining to this program shall be made available for inspection to representatives of USDA-FNS, the Comptroller General of the United States, the state Auditors of Public Accounts, the department, and the Department of Public Health as necessary, at any time during normal business hours, and as frequently as is deemed necessary for inspection and audit. Confidentiality of personal information shall be maintained as to all program participants at all times.

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Sec. 2. Section 22-26f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There shall be a State Veterinarian who shall be an employee of the Department of Agriculture and shall serve as the chief livestock health official for the state.

(b) The State Veterinarian shall possess and retain during employment a license to practice veterinary medicine in this state. The State Veterinarian shall possess and retain federal accreditation in this state through the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and shall have not less than [seven] three years experience in large animal practice.

(c) The State Veterinarian shall (1) act as the official state epidemiologist for animal and poultry diseases, (2) coordinate state and federal governmental agencies and livestock and poultry producers to control diseases, and (3) administer and guide the development and management of disease control and eradication programs performed by the department. The State Veterinarian shall act as liaison with other units in the department, other state agencies and other officials regarding policies concerning disease control and cruelty to animals and shall supervise the quarantine and disposal of animals and poultry condemned because of disease.

(d) The State Veterinarian may issue orders to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases among animals and poultry and may protect the public from such diseases as may be transmissible to human beings, either directly or through the products of such animals.

(e) The State Veterinarian shall annually issue a list of reportable animal and avian diseases and reportable laboratory findings and amend such list as the State Veterinarian deems necessary. The State Veterinarian shall distribute such list as well as any necessary forms

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and instructions for use in the reporting of such diseases to each veterinarian licensed in this state and to each diagnostic laboratory that conducts tests on animals or birds in this state.

Sec. 3. Section 22-26j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Department of Agriculture shall establish and administer a farm viability matching grant program [of matching grants] to [municipalities] any municipality, group of municipalities, regional planning agency organized under the provisions of chapter 127, regional council of elected officials organized under the provisions of chapter 50, regional council of governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, or group of municipalities which have established a regional interlocal agreement pursuant to sections 7-339a to 7-339l, inclusive, to further agricultural viability. Such grants may be used for the following purposes: (1) Local capital projects that foster agricultural viability, including, but not limited to, processing facilities and farmers markets; and (2) the development and implementation of agriculturally-friendly land use regulations and local farmland protection strategies that sustain and promote local agriculture.

Sec. 4. Section 22-26k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a farm transition grant program which shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Matching grants shall be made to farmers, agricultural not-for-profit organizations and agricultural cooperatives for diversification of existing farm operations, transitioning to value added agricultural production and sales, and developing farmers' markets and other venues in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state.

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(b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for the administration of the program established by this section. Such regulations shall require the development of business plans by applicants as part of the application process.

Sec. 5. Section 22-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For purposes of this section, "farm products" means products resulting from the practice of agriculture or farming, as defined in section 1-1 and "Connecticut-Grown" means produce and other farm products that have a traceable point of origin within Connecticut.

(b) Only farm products grown [and eggs] or produced in Connecticut shall be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Connecticut-Grown". Farm products grown [and eggs] or produced in Connecticut may be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Native", "Native-Grown", "Local" or "Locally-Grown". Farm products grown [and eggs] or produced within a ten-mile radius of the point of sale for such farm products [or eggs] may be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Native", "Native-Grown", "Local", or "Locally-Grown". Any person, firm, partnership or corporation advertising farm products as "Native", "Native-Grown", "Local", "Locally-Grown", or "Connecticut-Grown" shall be required to furnish written proof within ten days of the sale of such products that such products were grown or produced in Connecticut or within a ten-mile radius of the point of sale, as applicable, if requested to do so by the Commissioner of Agriculture or said commissioner's designee. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars for each product label in violation of this section.

Sec. 6. Section 22-118q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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[On or before July 1, 1999, the] The Commissioner of Agriculture shall adopt, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, such regulations for commercial feeds and pet foods as are specifically authorized in sections 22-118k to 22-118t, inclusive, and such other reasonable regulations as may be necessary for the efficient enforcement of sections 22-118k to 22-118t, inclusive. In the interest of uniformity the commissioner shall by such regulations adopt, unless he determines that they are inconsistent with the provisions of sections 22-118k to 22-118t, inclusive, or are not appropriate to conditions which exist in this state, the following: (1) The official definitions of feed ingredients and official feed terms adopted by the Association of American Feed Control Officials and published in the official publication of that organization, and may incorporate by reference any provisions, or future changes to such provisions, which said association may adopt for the regulation of commercial and customer-formula feeds, and (2) any regulation promulgated pursuant to the authority of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 USC Section 301, et seq.) provided the commissioner otherwise has the authority to adopt such regulations. The commissioner may establish fees in such regulations to defray the costs of administering this section.

Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) Section 22-118v of the general statutes is repealed.

Approved April 29, 2008