



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 632

February Session, 2008

* SB00632APP__042308__ *

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSISTANCE FOR DAIRY FARMERS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) There shall be established a
2 Dairy Farm Protection account, which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
3 account within the General Fund. The Commissioner of Agriculture
4 may use said account to make grants to dairy farmers in this state
5 based on the milk production levels of such farmers in any year where
6 the average monthly federal price per hundredweight received by such
7 farmers for milk produced by them is less than such farmers' costs of
8 production, as determined by the commissioner.

9 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
10 Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy
11 and Management, shall, not later than January 1, 2009, make
12 recommendations and any proposed legislative changes to the joint
13 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
14 matters relating to agriculture, energy and public utilities, in
15 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding
16 actions that may be taken to lower agricultural fuel, electricity and
17 production costs.

18 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
19 Agriculture and the Commissioner of Economic and Community
20 Development shall, not later than January 1, 2009, jointly make

21 recommendations and any proposed legislative changes to the joint
22 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
23 matters relating to agriculture, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
24 general statutes, regarding actions that may be taken to increase
25 Connecticut dairy industry revenues.

26 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established, within
27 available appropriations, the Connecticut Certified Milk Promotion
28 Board, which shall be within the Department of Agriculture.

29 (b) The board shall consist of the following members: (1) One
30 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be involved
31 in agriculture or in an agriculture organization; (2) one appointed by
32 the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be actively involved
33 in dairy farming; (3) one appointed by the minority leader of the
34 Senate, who shall represent the dairy industry; (4) one appointed by
35 the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a
36 dairy retailer; (5) one appointed by the speaker of the House of
37 Representatives, who shall be involved in agriculture or in an
38 agriculture organization; (6) one appointed by the majority leader of
39 the House of Representatives, who shall be a dairy wholesaler; (7) the
40 Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee; and (8)
41 the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
42 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to agriculture, who
43 shall be ex-officio members without the right to vote. The board shall
44 elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members.
45 Any person absent from (A) three consecutive meetings of the
46 commission, or (B) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar
47 year shall be deemed to have resigned from the board, effective
48 immediately. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by the appointing
49 authority. Members of the board serve without compensation but
50 shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses
51 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The board shall
52 meet as often as deemed necessary by the chairperson or a majority of
53 the board.

54 (c) The board shall: (1) Develop, coordinate and implement
 55 promotional, research and other programs designed to promote
 56 Connecticut dairy farms and milk consumption; and (2) prepare and
 57 submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 58 having cognizance of matters relating to agriculture an annual report
 59 concerning its activities.

60 (d) The board may use such funds as may be available from federal,
 61 state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out the
 62 purposes of this section.

63 (e) The board may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of the
 64 general statutes, employ any necessary staff within available
 65 appropriations.

66 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of ____ dollars is
 67 appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, from the General
 68 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, to fund the Dairy Farm
 69 Protection account established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

GAE *Joint Favorable*

CE *Joint Favorable*

APP *Joint Favorable*