



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 401

January Session, 2011

Substitute House Bill No. 5508

House of Representatives, April 6, 2011

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-26e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

3 [(a) There is hereby established a Governor's Council for
4 Agricultural Development for advisory purposes only, consisting of
5 not more than thirty members. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall
6 be chairman of said council. The Governor shall appoint twelve
7 council members from a list provided by the Commissioner of
8 Agriculture of persons representative of agricultural activities in the
9 state, including agricultural production, processing, marketing, sales,
10 education and trade associations. The speaker of the House of
11 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate and the
12 majority leader and minority leader of each house of the General
13 Assembly shall each appoint two council members.

14 (b) The council shall provide advice to the Department of
15 Agriculture concerning the development, diversification and
16 promotion of agricultural products, programs and enterprises in this
17 state and shall provide for an interchange of ideas from the various
18 commodity groups and organizations represented.

19 (c) The council shall meet at least once each calendar quarter. Any
20 vacancy in the membership may be filled by the Governor. The
21 members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for
22 expenses. Any member absent from more than two meetings in a year
23 shall be deemed to have resigned.]

24 (a) There is hereby established a Governor's Council for Agricultural
25 Development for advisory purposes only, consisting of the following
26 members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, who shall serve as the
27 chairperson of the council, (2) the dean of the College of Agriculture
28 and Natural Resources at The University of Connecticut, or the dean's
29 designee, (3) the chairperson of the Connecticut Milk Promotion
30 Board, or the chairperson's designee, (4) six members appointed by the
31 Governor, who shall each be actively engaged in agricultural
32 production, (5) one member appointed by the speaker of the House of
33 Representatives, who shall be engaged in agricultural processing, (6)
34 one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate,
35 who shall be engaged in agricultural marketing, (7) one member
36 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who
37 shall be engaged in agricultural sales, (8) one member appointed by
38 the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be from a trade association,
39 (9) one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of
40 Representatives, who shall be from the green industry, and (10) one
41 member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
42 actively engaged in agricultural education.

43 (b) The council shall make recommendations to the Department of
44 Agriculture on ways to increase the percentage of consumer dollars
45 spent on Connecticut-grown fresh produce and farm products,
46 including, but not limited to, ways to increase the amount of money

47 spent by residents of the state on locally-grown farm products, by
 48 2020, to not less than five per cent of all money spent by such residents
 49 on food. The council shall also make recommendations concerning the
 50 development, diversification and promotion of agricultural products,
 51 programs and enterprises in this state and shall provide for an
 52 interchange of ideas from the various commodity groups and
 53 organizations represented.

54 (c) The council shall meet not less than once per calendar quarter.
 55 Any vacancy in the membership of the council shall be filled by the
 56 Governor. The members shall serve without compensation or
 57 reimbursement for expenses. Any member absent from more than two
 58 meetings in a calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2011	22-26e

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill reduces membership on the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development, from up to 30 members to 15 members. This does not result in a fiscal impact since there is no compensation for the Council's members.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5508

AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

SUMMARY:

This bill reshapes the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development. It establishes the membership at 15 rather than 30 members and specifies members' qualifications.

The bill requires the council to recommend to the Agriculture Department ways to increase the percentage of consumer dollars spent on Connecticut-grown fresh produce and other farm products. The recommendations must include ways to increase, by 2020, the amount Connecticut residents spend on locally grown farm products to at least 5% of all money spent on food.

By law, the council advises the Agriculture Department on the development, diversification, and promotion of agricultural products, programs, and enterprises and provides for an exchange of ideas among the commodity groups and organizations it represents.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The bill sets the council's membership at 15 members instead of permitting up to 30 members. The bill requires, instead of allows, the governor to fill any vacancy in membership.

Under the bill, the members include the (1) agriculture commissioner, who serves as chairperson, as under current law; (2) dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UConn or the dean's designee; and (3) Connecticut Milk Promotion Board's

chairperson or the chairperson's designee. Members also include 12 appointees, as described in Table 1.

Table 1: Appointed Members

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Appointees under Current Law</i>	<i>Appointees under the Bill</i>
Governor	12 members from a list the Department of Agriculture prepares	Six members who actively engage in agricultural production
House speaker	Two members	One member who engages in agricultural processing
Senate president pro tempore	Two members	One member who engages in agricultural marketing
House majority leader	Two members	One member who engages in agricultural sales
Senate majority leader	Two members	One member from a trade association
House minority leader	Two members	One member from the green industry
Senate minority leader	Two members	One member who actively engages in agricultural education

By law, the council must meet at least once each calendar quarter. A member who is absent from more than two meetings per year is deemed to have resigned. Members serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/18/2011)