Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

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

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

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 Section 22-26e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2011):

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

(b) The council shall provide advice to the Department of Agriculture concerning the development, diversification and
promotion of agricultural products, programs and enterprises in this state and shall provide for an interchange of ideas from the various commodity groups and organizations represented. The council shall make recommendations to the department on ways to increase the percentage of consumer dollars spent on Connecticut grown products, including, but not limited to, ways to increase the amount of money spent by residents of the state on locally grown food, by 2020, to not less than five per cent of the amount of money spent by residents of the state on food.

(c) The council shall meet at least once each calendar quarter. Any vacancy in the membership may be filled by the Governor. The members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses. Any member absent from more than two meetings in a 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 |

**Statement of Purpose:**
To make the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development a more effective advocate for Connecticut 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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. CHAPIN, 67th Dist.

H.B. 5508