

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 11-189—sHB 5508

Environment Committee

Government Administration and Elections Committee

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

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

The act requires the council to recommend to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) 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 DoAg 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 act sets the council's membership at 15 instead of permitting up to 30 members. It requires, instead of allows, the governor to fill any vacancy.

Under the act, the members include the (1) agriculture commissioner, who serves as chairperson, as under existing 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

Appointing Authority	Appointees under Prior Law	Appointees under the Act
Governor	12 members from a list the Department of Agriculture prepares	Six members actively engaged 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

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

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.

OLR Tracking: JLK:TA:PF:ts