



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 466

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5416

House of Representatives, April 9, 2014

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GENTILE of the 104th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) There is established a
2 Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council that shall consist of the
3 following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture; (2) the state
4 veterinarian; (3) four appointed by the Governor, as follows: (A) One
5 who shall have knowledge of food safety and food safety regulation in
6 the state, (B) one who shall be from a state-wide organization that
7 represents the beef industry, (C) one who shall be licensed in the state
8 as a livestock or poultry veterinarian, and (D) one who shall represent
9 the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at The University of
10 Connecticut; (4) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the
11 Senate, as follows: (A) One who shall be a representative of the state
12 slaughter industry, and (B) one who shall be a representative of a state
13 livestock dealer, a hauler or the auction industry; (5) two appointed by
14 the speaker of the House of Representatives, as follows: (A) One who

15 shall be a producer of species other than bovidae, and (B) one who
16 shall be an operator of a medium or large farm licensed by the
17 Department of Agriculture; (6) one appointed by the majority leader of
18 the Senate who shall be a professional in the care and management of
19 equines and equine facilities; (7) one appointed by the minority leader
20 of the Senate who shall be the operator of a small dairy farm in this
21 state; (8) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of
22 Representatives who shall be a representative of a national, nonprofit
23 animal welfare organization with farm animal expertise; (9) one
24 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who
25 shall be experienced in investigating charges of animal cruelty
26 involving livestock, provided such person has not received any
27 compensation from any national humane society or organization for
28 such investigatory work; and (10) one appointed by the cochairpersons
29 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
30 cognizance of matters relating to the environment who shall be a
31 representative of the Future Farmers of America. Each appointed
32 member shall serve for a term of three years from the date of his or her
33 appointment. No appointed member shall serve for more than two
34 terms. No member shall receive compensation for his or her service on
35 the advisory council.

36 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall serve as the chairperson
37 of the advisory council. The advisory council shall meet at such times
38 as the chairperson determines is necessary, provided the advisory
39 council meets not less than once per calendar year and the first
40 meeting of the advisory council occurs not later than ninety days after
41 the effective date of this section. A quorum shall be required for the
42 advisory council to conduct business. Eight members of the advisory
43 council shall constitute a quorum. The advisory council shall be
44 located in the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes
45 only.

46 (c) The advisory council shall have the following duties: (1) Conduct
47 a review and evaluation of state laws applicable to the care and
48 handling of livestock; (2) submit policy recommendations, including,

49 but not limited to, legislative recommendations, to the Commissioner
50 of Agriculture concerning the care and handling of livestock. In
51 performing such review and evaluation, the advisory council shall
52 consider the following: (A) The overall health and welfare of livestock
53 species, (B) agricultural best management practices, (C) biosecurity
54 and disease prevention, (D) animal morbidity and mortality data, (E)
55 food safety practices, (F) the protection of local and affordable food
56 supplies for state residents, and (G) humane transport and slaughter
57 practices; and (3) submit a recommendation to the joint standing
58 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
59 relating to the environment concerning the need to regulate the
60 tethering or confining of gestating sows by farm owners or operators.
61 Concomitant with the submission of any recommendation to the
62 Commissioner of Agriculture, the advisory council shall submit,
63 pursuant to section 11-4a of the general statutes, such recommendation
64 to the joint committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
65 matters relating to agriculture. The advisory council may engage in
66 outreach and education activities related to state laws concerning the
67 care and handling of livestock.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	New section

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Department of Agriculture	GF - Potential Cost	Less than 5,000	Less than 5,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a 15-member livestock care standards advisory council that may perform outreach and education activities about the care and handling of livestock.

To the extent the council performs outreach and education activities, there may be costs to the Department of Agriculture anticipated to be less than \$5,000 annually.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the extent of outreach and education performed.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5416

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS
ADVISORY COUNCIL.***

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes a 15-member livestock care standards advisory council, for which the agriculture commissioner serves as chairperson. The council is located in the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes only.

Under the bill, the council must (1) review and evaluate state laws on the care and handling of livestock, (2) submit policy and legislative recommendations to the agriculture commissioner and Environment Committee, and (3) submit a recommendation to the Environment Committee on the need to regulate the tethering or confining of gestating sows by farmers. It may perform outreach and education activities on state laws about the care and handling of livestock.

When performing a review and evaluation of state laws, the council must consider:

1. the overall health and welfare of livestock,
2. agricultural best management practices,
3. biosecurity and disease prevention,
4. animal morbidity and mortality data,
5. food safety practices and the protection of local and affordable food supplies for state residents, and
6. humane transport and slaughter practices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Membership

Under the bill, the council consists of 15 members, including the agriculture commissioner, state veterinarian, and 13 members appointed by the governor and legislative leaders, as Table 1 shows.

Table 1: Advisory Council Appointees

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>
Governor	Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One with knowledge of food safety and food safety regulation in Connecticut. One from a statewide organization representing the beef industry. One Connecticut-licensed livestock or poultry veterinarian. One from UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
Senate President Pro Tempore	Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One representative of the state slaughter industry. One representative of a state livestock dealer, hauler, or the auction industry.
House Speaker	Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One producer of a species other than cows or other bovidae. One operator of a Department of Agriculture-licensed medium or large farm.
Senate majority leader	One	A professional in the care and management of equines (e.g., horses) or equine facilities.
Senate minority leader	One	An operator of a small Connecticut dairy farm.
House majority leader	One	A representative of a national, nonprofit animal welfare organization with farm animal expertise.
House minority leader	One	A person experienced in investigating animal cruelty charges, but who has not received compensation from a national humane society or organization for such work.
Environment Committee chairpersons	One	A representative of the Future Farmers of America.

Terms

Each appointed member serves a three-year term from the date of his or her appointment. No one may serve more than two terms. Members serve without compensation.

Meetings

The council must meet when the agriculture commissioner, as chairperson, determines necessary, but at least once a year. The councils' first meeting must be held by December 30, 2014 (i.e., 90 days after October 1, 2014).

Quorum

The bill requires a quorum for the council to conduct business. Eight members constitute a quorum.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/21/2014)