



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 4269

**\*HB0541604269HDO\***

Offered by:

REP. URBAN, 43<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5416

File No. 466

Cal. No. 274

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

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) There is established a  
4 Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council that shall consist of the  
5 following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture; (2) the state  
6 veterinarian; (3) a Connecticut-based veterinarian who is a member of  
7 the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, as appointed by  
8 the Commissioner of Agriculture; (4) a representative of the  
9 Connecticut Farm Bureau, as appointed by the Commissioner of  
10 Agriculture; (5) a Connecticut-based livestock or poultry farmer who  
11 has a current membership in a humane certification program, as  
12 appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture; (6) a representative of  
13 the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, as appointed by the  
14 Commissioner of Agriculture; (7) a representative of a national

15 nonprofit animal welfare organization, as appointed by the  
16 Commissioner of Agriculture; and (8) a representative of the  
17 Connecticut chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association, as  
18 appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Each appointed  
19 member shall serve for a term of three years from the date of his or her  
20 appointment. No appointed member shall serve for more than two  
21 terms. No member shall receive compensation for his or her service on  
22 the advisory council.

23 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall serve as the chairperson  
24 of the advisory council. The advisory council shall meet at such times  
25 as the chairperson determines is necessary, provided the advisory  
26 council meets not less than once per calendar year and the first  
27 meeting of the advisory council occurs not later than ninety days after  
28 the effective date of this section. A quorum shall be required for the  
29 advisory council to conduct business. Five members of the advisory  
30 council shall constitute a quorum. The advisory council shall be  
31 located in the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes  
32 only.

33 (c) The advisory council shall have the following duties: (1) Conduct  
34 a review and evaluation of state laws applicable to the care and  
35 handling of livestock; and (2) submit policy recommendations,  
36 including, but not limited to, legislative recommendations, to the  
37 Commissioner of Agriculture concerning the care and handling of  
38 livestock. In performing such review and evaluation, the advisory  
39 council shall consider the following: (A) The overall health and welfare  
40 of livestock species, (B) agricultural best management practices, (C)  
41 biosecurity and disease prevention, (D) animal morbidity and  
42 mortality data, (E) food safety practices, (F) the protection of local and  
43 affordable food supplies for state residents, and (G) humane transport  
44 and slaughter practices. The advisory council may engage in outreach  
45 and education activities related to state laws concerning the care and  
46 handling of livestock.

47 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) For the purposes of this

48 section:

49 (1) "Enclosure" means any cage, crate or other structure used for  
50 gestating sows;

51 (2) "Farm" means the land, buildings, support facilities and other  
52 equipment that are wholly or partially used for the commercial  
53 production of animals or animal products used for food or fiber.  
54 "Farm" does not include live animal markets;

55 (3) "Farm owner or operator" means any person who owns or  
56 controls the operation of a farm. "Farm owner or operator" does not  
57 include any nonmanagement employee, contractor or consultant;

58 (4) "Fully extending" means to be able to fully extend all limbs  
59 without touching the side of any enclosure;

60 (5) "Gestating sow" means a pregnant pig of the porcine species kept  
61 for the primary purpose of breeding; and

62 (6) "Turning around freely" means to be able to turn in a complete  
63 circle without any impediment, including a tether, and without  
64 touching the side of any enclosure.

65 (b) No farm owner or operator shall knowingly tether or confine  
66 any gestating sow in any enclosure in a manner that prevents such  
67 gestating sow from turning around freely, lying down, standing up or  
68 fully extending such gestating sow's limbs.

69 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply  
70 during any: (1) Medical research, (2) examination, testing, treatment or  
71 operation for veterinary purposes, provided such examination, testing,  
72 treatment or operation is performed by or under the direct supervision  
73 of a licensed veterinarian, (3) transporting of such gestational sow, (4)  
74 state or county fair exhibition, 4-H program or similar exhibition, (5)  
75 temporary confinement of not more than six hours during any twenty-  
76 four-hour period for animal husbandry purposes, (6) humane

77 slaughter in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, or (7)  
78 seven-day period prior to such gestating sow's expected date to give  
79 birth.

80 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any other  
81 provision of the general statutes that may be construed to protect the  
82 welfare of any gestating sow.

83 (e) It shall not be an affirmative defense to an alleged violation of  
84 this section that such farm owner or operator kept such gestating sow  
85 as part of an agricultural operation and in accordance with customary  
86 animal husbandry or farming practices.

87 (f) Any farm owner or operator who violates the provisions of this  
88 section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or  
89 imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

90 (g) The provisions of this section shall not be enforced by the  
91 Commissioner of Agriculture until the commissioner determines, in  
92 writing, that enclosures that do not meet the requirements of  
93 subsection (b) of this section are used in this state."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	October 1, 2014	New section
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