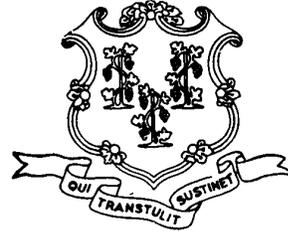


Department of Consumer Protection



Testimony of Jonathan A. Harris Commissioner of Consumer Protection

Environment Committee Public Hearing, February 24, 2016

S.B. 138 “AN ACT CONCERNING THE TERM AND FEE FOR CERTAIN LICENSES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DESIGNATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR PURPOSES OF THE FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT”

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about Senate Bill 138, “An Act Concerning the Term and Fee for Certain Licenses Issued by the Department of Agriculture and the Designation of the Department of Agriculture as the Lead Agency for Purposes of the Food Safety Modernization Act.”

Section 5 of this bill names the Department of Agriculture as the lead state agency for implementation and enforcement of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Department of Consumer Protection opposes this section of the bill.

The Department of Consumer Protection and the Department of Agriculture both have jurisdiction over different areas of the implementation of FSMA. At the request of the Office of the Governor, and consistent with our efforts over the past year to cut our budget, we have been discussing with the Department of Agriculture ways our sister agencies can better coordinate and divide duties so that both agencies can carry out our core functions more effectively, efficiently and with fewer resources.

Anything that hardens the lines between our agencies while we are trying to work through these issues will make cooperation more difficult, if not impossible. The Department of Consumer Protection respectfully requests that Section 5 be removed from S.B. 138.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Legislative Director, Leslie O'Brien, should you have any question or need additional information.