AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF "CONNECTICUT GROWN" PRODUCTS AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AQUACULTURE SITE DESIGNATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

SUMMARY: This act requires anyone who sells a Connecticut-grown farm product through the Connecticut farm-to-school program (see BACKGROUND) to offer proof to the school district, school, or educational institution buying the product that it was produced in the state. The proof must, at a minimum, include the name of the person or business that produced the product and the name and address of the farm where it was produced.

The act also allows the agriculture commissioner to designate one or more suitable shellfish parcels for use by one or more nonprofit education or conservation organizations to develop an aquaculture site for an environmental education curriculum. A parcel cannot be (1) designated to or shared with another person or entity and (2) more than one-half acre in total area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018, except the shellfish parcel provisions are effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Farm-to-School Program

State law requires the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the state Department of Education (SDE), to administer the Connecticut farm-to-school program to promote and facilitate the sale of Connecticut-grown farm products by farms to school districts, individual schools, and other educational institutions under SDE’s jurisdiction (CGS § 22-38d).