



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 102**

February Session, 2018

Senate Bill No. 233

*Senate, March 28, 2018*

The Committee on Aging reported through SEN. MCCRORY of the 2nd Dist. and SEN. KELLY of the 21st Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT INCREASING THE DOLLAR VALUE OF FARMERS' MARKET VOUCHER BOOKS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 22-6q of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2018*):

4 (a) There is established the Connecticut Farmers' Market/Senior  
5 Nutrition Program which shall be provided for from funds available to  
6 the commissioner and from other sources as such funds may become  
7 available. The program shall supply Connecticut-grown fresh produce  
8 to senior participants through the distribution of vouchers that are  
9 redeemable only at designated Connecticut farmers' markets. The  
10 Commissioner of Agriculture shall establish the dollar value of  
11 voucher books, provided such value shall not be less than twenty-five  
12 dollars' worth of vouchers for each senior participant. For purposes of  
13 this section, a "senior participant" is defined as a person who is sixty

14 years of age or older and is currently residing in elderly housing, or is  
 15 a participant of a registered congregate meal site, or has been  
 16 identified by a municipal elderly agent as being at nutritional risk. The  
 17 program is designed to provide both a supplemental source of fresh  
 18 produce for the dietary needs of seniors who are judged to be at  
 19 nutritional risk and to stimulate an increased demand for Connecticut-  
 20 grown produce at Connecticut farmers' markets.

21       Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2018*) The sum of two hundred eighty-two  
 22 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture  
 23 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to  
 24 increase the dollar value of Connecticut Farmers' Market/Senior  
 25 Nutrition Program voucher books to twenty-five dollars per senior  
 26 participant and to ensure that a sufficient number of vouchers are  
 27 available.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	22-6q(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section

**AGE**       *Joint Favorable*

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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.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 19 \$</b>	<b>FY 20 \$</b>
Department of Agriculture	GF - Cost	154,105	154,105

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to set the value of Senior Food Vouchers at no less than \$25 and appropriates an unspecified amount of funding to DoAg for this program.

It would cost \$154,105 annually for DoAg to provide coupons worth \$25 to eligible clients based on the current number of coupons issued. In 2017, there were 22,015 books distributed worth \$18 each.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact is determined by the appropriation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 233*****AN ACT INCREASING THE DOLLAR VALUE OF FARMERS' MARKET VOUCHER BOOKS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the agriculture commissioner to set the value of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers at no less than \$25. Under current practice, eligible seniors receive program vouchers worth \$18.

The bill also appropriates \$282,000 in FY 19 from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture for the vouchers' increased value and to ensure that a sufficient number of vouchers are available.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

**BACKGROUND*****Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program***

By law, the agriculture commissioner must establish the program within available funds. The program must supply Connecticut-grown produce to help people age 60 or older who (1) live in elderly housing, (2) participate in a registered congregate meal site, or (3) have been identified by a municipality as being at nutritional risk. Participants receive vouchers redeemable at designated Connecticut farmers' markets.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/15/2018)