OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 233

AN ACT CONCERNING COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTS AND THE PRODUCTION OF HONEY AND MAPLE SYRUP.

SUMMARY
This bill transfers, from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg), enforcement authority over:

1. maple syrup prepared and sold on residential farms and
2. honey labeling.

The bill also exempts maple syrup and honey from DCP regulation under the state’s cottage food law, which licenses individuals who (1) produce certain foods only in their private residential dwelling’s home kitchen and for sale directly to the consumer and (2) do not operate as a food service establishment, food retailer, distributor, or manufacturer. By law, unchanged by the bill, maple syrup and honey producers who produce their goods for sale to other establishments must be licensed by DCP as food manufacturers (CGS § 21a-152).

Lastly, the bill explicitly adds honey production to the state’s general definition of “agriculture” and “farming.”

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

MAPLE SYRUP
The bill makes DoAg, rather than DCP, responsible for enforcing existing law’s requirements related to preparing and selling maple syrup on residential farms. By law, a residential farm is property that is used as a farm and serves as the primary residence of the property’s owner.

Under existing law, maple syrup may be prepared and sold in any
room used as living quarters. The operation is exempt from state inspection but each container of maple syrup offered for sale must state that the product was not prepared in a government-inspected kitchen.

**HONEY**

Under the bill, DoAg rather than DCP is tasked with enforcing existing law’s requirements for labeling honey. The law prohibits anyone who sells, exposes, or offers for sale a product without honey from using the word “honey” on the label or in the product’s brand name. And products made from honey and any other substance, compound, or mixture must have “honey” in the same size type as the product’s other ingredients.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29  Nay 0  (02/25/2019)