OLR Bill Analysis
SB 1000

**AN ACT CONCERNING APPLE ASSESSMENTS.**

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires an apple producer who pays an apple assessment to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to pay a minimum of $100 per assessment.

By law, apple producers pay DoAg an apple assessment to cover the costs of the commissioner’s apple market order, which calls for marketing research and the promotion of Connecticut apples and apple products. Apple producers pay the assessment either annually on November 15 or quarterly in November, February, May, and August. A producer who does not pay a required assessment is subject to a fine of up to $1,000 for each day the assessment remains unpaid.

Under current law, the assessment is based on the number of apples sold or removed from storage on or before the last day of the month preceding the month the assessment is due, excluding an apple producer’s initial 1,000 first sale units in each market season. Under the bill, an assessment is the greater of that amount or $100.

By law, an “apple producer” is a person who produces more than 1,000 first sale units of apples in Connecticut. A “first sale unit” of apples is generally 40 pounds of apples sold on a per pound basis or in bulk (or between 36 and 44 pounds if sold in boxes, cartons, baskets, or other containers) (CGS §22-54o).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2019

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable
| Yea | 20 | Nay | 8  | (03/18/2019) |