AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE FARMLAND AVAILABILITY FOR BEGINNING FARMERS.

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

Section 1. (Effective from passage) (a) There is established a task force to study issues relating to farmland access for new and beginning farmers. In undertaking such study, the task force shall examine the affordability of such farmland access, including, but not limited to, the cost to purchase or rent such farmland in urban, rural and suburban areas of the state, the availability of such farmland in such settings and the accessibility of farm financing and farm worker housing. Additionally, in examining such issues, the task force shall consider the accessibility of such farmland for historically under-represented populations in the state's farming community, review the effectiveness of current programs to create such accessibility and consider programs of other states aimed at creating such accessibility.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a beginning farmer and one of whom shall be a farmer with not less than ten years of farming experience;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, each one of whom shall be from an organization that works on behalf of starting farmers and one of whom shall be from a financial institution that lends money to farmers in the state;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
Representatives, who shall be a member or representative of an organization that advocates for equal human rights and racial justice;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an organization that links beginning farmers with farmland in urban, rural and suburban areas of the state;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be from a state or municipal planning organization;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of a group that advocates for farmland preservation and accessibility, including, but not limited to, urban farming;

(7) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee;

(8) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee; and

(9) A representative of The University of Connecticut's Agricultural Extension, who shall be appointed by the director of such extension.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to agriculture shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to agriculture, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>from passage</th>
<th>New section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>