AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.

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

Section 1. Section 22-456 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) There is established the Connecticut Food Policy Council, which shall be within the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes only.

(b) [The] Until June 30, 2019, the council shall consist of the following members: (1) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who shall be involved in agriculture or in an agriculture organization; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate who shall be involved in an antihunger organization; (3) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall represent the Cooperative Extension Service; (4) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a food retailer; (5) one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who shall be involved in agriculture or in an agriculture organization; (6) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a produce wholesaler; (7) the Commissioner of Agriculture, or his designee; (8) the Commissioner of Administrative Services, or his designee; (9) the Commissioner of Education, or his designee; (10) the Commissioner of Transportation, or his designee; (11) the Commissioner of Public Health, or his designee; (12) the
Commissioner of Social Services, or his designee; (13) the head of each state department, as defined in section 4-5, who is not one of the commissioners designated in subdivisions (7) to (12), inclusive, of this subsection who shall be members ex officio without the right to vote; and (14) the chairman of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment who shall be a member ex officio without the right to vote. The term of all members appointed under this subsection shall terminate on June 30, 2019.

(c) On and after July 1, 2019, the council shall consist of the following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or a designee; (2) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee; (3) the Commissioner of Transportation, or a designee; (4) the Commissioner of Public Health, or a designee; (5) the Commissioner of Social Services, or a designee; (6) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or a designee; (7) the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or a designee; (8) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or a designee; (9) one who is a representative of The University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service, designated by the president of The University of Connecticut; (10) two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, both of whom represent a local or state-wide food commission, council or network; (11) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, both of whom represent a local or state-wide food commission, council or network; (12) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who represents a local or state-wide food commission, council or network; (13) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who represents a local or state-wide food commission, council or network; (14) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who represents a local or state-wide food commission, council or network; (15) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who represents a local or state-wide food commission, council or network; (16) one appointed by the Governor, who is an agricultural producer; and (17) one appointed by the
Governor, who is a representative of an anti-hunger organization.

(d) Members of the council appointed under subsection (c) of this section shall serve for three-year terms commencing on the date of appointment, which for initial appointments shall be not later than September 1, 2019. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the council shall elect two chairpersons and a vice-chairperson from among its members, provided one chairperson shall be a department head and one chairperson shall be a public member. Any person absent from [(A) (1) three consecutive meetings of the commission or [(B)] (2) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the council, effective immediately. Vacancies on the council shall be filled by the appointing authority.

Members of the council serve without compensation but shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The council shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the chairpersons or a majority of the council.

[(c) (f) The council shall:] (f) The council shall: (1) Develop, coordinate and implement a food system policy linking local economic development, environmental protection and preservation with farming and urban issues; (2) review and comment on any proposed state legislation and regulations that would affect the food policy system of the state; (3) examine food and nutrition-related programs, issues and policies, and develop recommendations to promote a strong food economy and support community access to healthy foods. The council may make recommendations related to the following: (1) Increased collaboration and communication among state agencies; (2) increased collaboration and communication among local, state and federal agencies; (3) opportunities to leverage private and public market influence, such as
(g) The council (1) shall advise and provide information to the Governor on the state's food policy; [and (4)] (2) shall examine food policy at the local level and coordinate with local entities on existing and proposed local food policy; (3) may work with local and state-wide food networks and commissions on food action planning activities; and (4) shall prepare and submit to [the joint standing committee of] the General Assembly, [having cognizance of matters relating to the environment] in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, an annual report concerning its activities with any [appropriate] recommendations [concerning food policy] for legislation.

[(d)] (h) The council may use such funds as may be available from federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out the purposes of this section.

[(e)] (i) The council may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, employ any necessary staff within available appropriations.

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

| Section 1 | July 1, 2019 | 22-456 |