



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5295**

February Session, 2022



**AN ACT CONCERNING AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-11c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

3 (a) As used in sections 22-11d to 22-11f, inclusive, "aquaculture"  
4 means the controlled rearing, cultivation and harvest of aquatic plants  
5 and animals in land-based and marine-based culture systems, tanks,  
6 containers, impoundments, floating or submerged nets, longlines or  
7 pens and ponds.

8 (b) For purposes of this chapter "agriculture", as defined in subsection  
9 (q) of section 1-1, shall include aquaculture.

10 Sec. 2. Section 22-26e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

12 (a) There is hereby established a Governor's Council for Agricultural  
13 [Development for advisory] Development and Innovation within the  
14 Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes only, consisting  
15 of the following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, who  
16 shall serve as the chairperson of the council, (2) the dean of the College

17 of Agriculture and Natural Resources at The University of Connecticut,  
18 or the dean's designee, who shall serve as co-vice-chairperson, (3) the  
19 chairperson of the Connecticut [Milk Promotion Board] Farm Bureau,  
20 or the chairperson's designee, (4) six members appointed by the  
21 Governor, [who shall each be actively engaged in agricultural  
22 production,] (5) one member appointed by the speaker of the House of  
23 Representatives, [who shall be engaged in agricultural processing,] (6)  
24 one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate,  
25 [who shall be engaged in agricultural marketing,] (7) one member  
26 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, [who  
27 shall be engaged in agricultural sales,] (8) one member appointed by the  
28 majority leader of the Senate, [who shall be from a trade association,] (9)  
29 one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
30 Representatives, [who shall be from the green industry, and] (10) one  
31 member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, [who shall be  
32 actively engaged in agricultural education] and (11) the director of the  
33 Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, who shall serve as the co-  
34 vice-chairperson.

35 (b) The council shall make recommendations to the Department of  
36 Agriculture on ways to increase [the percentage of consumer dollars  
37 spent on Connecticut-grown fresh produce and farm products,  
38 including, but not limited to, ways to increase the amount of money  
39 spent by residents of the state on locally-grown farm products, by 2020,  
40 to not less than five per cent of all money spent by such residents on  
41 food] agriculture in the state by developing innovative market  
42 opportunities including, but not limited to, urban agriculture,  
43 integration and adoption of new technologies, controlled environment  
44 agriculture, and diversification of products and opportunities. The  
45 council shall also make recommendations concerning the development,  
46 diversification and promotion of [agricultural products, programs and  
47 enterprises] agriculture in this state and shall provide for an interchange  
48 of ideas from the various commodity groups and organizations  
49 represented.

50 (c) The council shall meet not less than once per calendar quarter and  
51 (1) as often as deemed necessary by the chairperson, or (2) upon a call  
52 for such a meeting by a quorum of the membership of the council. Any  
53 vacancy in the membership of the council shall be filled by the  
54 [Governor] applicable appointing authority. The members shall serve  
55 without compensation or reimbursement for expenses. Any member  
56 absent from more than two meetings in a calendar year shall be deemed  
57 to have resigned.

58 Sec. 3. Section 22-61d of the general statutes is amended by adding  
59 subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

60 (NEW) (d) (1) No person shall sell, offer for sale, expose for sale or  
61 transport for sale any agricultural or vegetable seed or seed used for  
62 lawn or turf purposes that is not labeled in accordance with the  
63 provisions of section 22-61c.

64 (2) Any such labeling described in subdivision (1) of this subsection  
65 shall be performed by a person who is registered with the  
66 Commissioner of Agriculture.

67 (3) Any person who labels seed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
68 subsection shall register annually with the Commissioner of  
69 Agriculture. The application for a seed labeler registration shall be  
70 submitted to the commissioner in a manner and on a form prescribed  
71 by the commissioner. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of  
72 one hundred dollars. All seed labeler registrations shall expire on March  
73 thirty-first of each year.

74 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 26-57a of the general statutes is  
75 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
76 *1, 2022*):

77 (d) Until such time as regulations are adopted pursuant to subsection  
78 (a) of this section, any person may import one or more reindeer into the  
79 state during the period commencing on Thanksgiving Day of each year  
80 and ending on the immediately following New Year's Day, or for a

81 period of time not to exceed seven days, provided (1) any reindeer so  
82 imported pursuant to this subsection is subsequently exported from the  
83 state no later than a week following the end of such period, and (2) such  
84 importation complies with the following requirements: Each reindeer so  
85 imported (A) is individually identified by a permanent metal ear tag,  
86 legible tattoo or microchip, (B) possesses a certified veterinary report of  
87 inspection documenting an inspection that occurred at least one day and  
88 not more than thirty days prior to entry into the state, (C) possesses  
89 documentation that verifies such reindeer (i) comes from a herd that is  
90 free of both tuberculosis and brucellosis, or (ii) tested negative for  
91 tuberculosis and brucellosis at least one day and not more than thirty  
92 days prior to entry into the state, and (D) possesses documentation that  
93 the originating herd participated in a state chronic wasting disease  
94 monitoring program (i) not less than the prior three years if from a state  
95 or province not known to have chronic wasting disease, or (ii) not less  
96 than the prior five years if from a state or province known to have  
97 chronic wasting disease outbreaks.

98 Sec. 5. Section 22-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
99 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

100 Any [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability who  
101 is the owner or keeper of a dog which [has been trained and educated  
102 to guide and assist such person in traveling upon the public streets or  
103 highways or otherwise] is a service animal for such person, is in training  
104 to become a service animal or is enrolled in a program described in  
105 section 17a-22ee shall receive a license and tag for such dog from the  
106 town clerk of the town where such dog is owned or kept. Such license  
107 and tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-  
108 340, and no fee shall be required of the owner or keeper of any such dog.  
109 When any such dog has not been previously licensed, by the town clerk  
110 to whom application is being made, such town clerk shall not license  
111 such dog or issue to the owner a license and tag unless [written evidence  
112 is exhibited to such clerk that the dog is trained and educated and  
113 intended in fact to perform such guide service for such applicant] such

114 person provides confirmation to the town clerk that such dog is a service  
115 animal, is in training to become a service animal or is enrolled in a  
116 program described in section 17a-22ee. Any person who has a dog  
117 placed with such person temporarily, including for breeding purposes,  
118 by a nonprofit organization established for the purpose of training or  
119 educating guide dogs to so assist [blind, deaf or mobility impaired]  
120 persons with disabilities shall receive a license and tag for such dog from  
121 the town clerk of the town where such dog is kept. Such license and tag  
122 shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, and  
123 no fee shall be required for such license and tag, provided such person  
124 presents [written evidence] confirmation that such dog was placed with  
125 such person by such organization. [As used in this section and section  
126 46a-44, "deaf person" means a person who cannot readily understand  
127 spoken language through hearing alone and who may also have a  
128 speech defect which renders such person's speech unintelligible to most  
129 people with normal hearing.]

130       Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall  
131 convene a working group with the Connecticut Town Clerks  
132 Association for the purpose of developing a plan to create a state-wide  
133 online dog licensing portal. The commissioner shall serve as the  
134 chairperson of such working group and shall convene the first meeting  
135 of such working group not later than ninety days after the effective date  
136 of this section. Such working group shall consist of representatives of  
137 the Department of Agriculture and members of the Connecticut Town  
138 Clerks Association and any other person or organization deemed  
139 necessary by the commissioner. Such plan shall include, but not be  
140 limited to, provisions for the pre-use testing of the portal described in  
141 this section by each category of intended users of such portal and a  
142 recommendation for a date to implement the use of such portal on a  
143 state-wide basis. Not later than January 1, 2023, the commissioner shall  
144 submit such plan to the joint standing committee of the General  
145 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment in  
146 addition to any requisite legislative proposals that are consistent with  
147 the components of such plan.

148       Sec. 7. Sections 22-11e and 26-192m of the general statutes are  
149 repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-11c
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-26e
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	22-61d
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	26-57a(d)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-345
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

**ENV**       *Joint Favorable Subst.*