



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 234

LCO No. 1642



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATORY SERVICES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

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

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

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

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

10 (3) Any person who labels seed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
11 subsection shall register annually with the Commissioner of
12 Agriculture. The application for a seed labeler registration shall be
13 submitted to the commissioner in a manner and on a form prescribed
14 by the commissioner. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of

15 one hundred dollars. All seed labeler registrations shall expire on March
16 thirty-first of each year.

17 Sec. 2. Section 22-342 of the general statutes is repealed and the
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

19 (a) Any owner or keeper of a [kennel] facility who breeds more than
20 two litters of dogs annually shall apply to the town clerk in the town in
21 which such [kennel] facility is located for a breeding kennel license. Any
22 owner or keeper of a [kennel] facility who breeds not more than two
23 litters of dogs annually may apply to the town clerk of the town in which
24 such [kennel] facility is located for a breeding kennel license. For the
25 purposes of this section, annually shall refer to the breeding kennel
26 license year which begins July first. Such town clerk shall issue to such
27 applicant a breeding kennel license on a form prescribed by the
28 commissioner for a period from the date of such application until the
29 thirtieth day of the ensuing June. The license shall specify the name and
30 number of the breeding kennel, the name of the owner and the name of
31 the keeper and shall be in lieu of any other license required for any dog
32 of either sex which may be kept in such breeding kennel during the
33 period for which the license is issued. Each license may be renewed from
34 year to year by the town clerk upon application of such owner or keeper.
35 Each such owner or keeper shall cause to be kept, upon each dog in such
36 breeding kennel, while it is at large, a collar or harness of leather or other
37 suitable material, to which collar or harness shall be securely attached a
38 tag or plate upon which shall appear the number of the breeding kennel
39 license, the name of the town issuing the license and the year of license.
40 Such plates or tags shall be furnished by the town clerk of the town in
41 which such breeding kennel is licensed, at a cost of ten cents each, in
42 such numbers, not fewer than the number of dogs kept in such breeding
43 kennel, and at such time as the licensee may request. The fee for each
44 breeding kennel license, when no more than ten dogs are kept in the
45 breeding kennel, shall be fifty dollars, and for a license for a breeding
46 kennel containing more than ten dogs, the fee shall be one hundred
47 dollars, except that in the case of a breeding kennel started after the first
48 day of July, the license fee for the remainder of the year shall be a

49 proportional part of the fee charged for one year. If the owner or keeper
50 of any established [kennel] facility fails to obtain the breeding kennel
51 license, as required by this section, on or before June thirtieth, [he] such
52 owner or keeper shall pay one dollar for each dog kept therein, in
53 addition to the regular breeding kennel license fee.

54 (b) [The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer or any state
55 animal control officer may at any time inspect any kennel including all
56 facilities of any kennel in which dogs are bred or housed or cause it to
57 be inspected by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian appointed by the
58 commissioner. If, in the judgment of the commissioner, such kennel is
59 not being maintained in good repair and in a sanitary and humane
60 manner or if the commissioner finds that communicable or infectious
61 disease or other unsatisfactory conditions exist in the kennel, he may
62 issue such orders as he deems necessary for the correction of such
63 conditions and may quarantine the premises and animals. If the owner
64 or keeper of such kennel fails to comply with such orders, the
65 commissioner shall revoke or suspend the kennel license of such owner
66 or keeper.] Any facility used as a breeding kennel may be inspected by
67 any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331 or 22-
68 331a with jurisdiction in the municipality in which the breeding kennel
69 is located. Such inspection may include review of the sanitary
70 conditions in which the dogs are kept, compliance with any dog's access
71 to proper and wholesome food, water, exercise and veterinary care
72 when necessary, including rabies vaccinations. Any crate or other
73 enclosures in which dogs are kept for more than four hours shall be
74 clean and in good repair such that they do not pose a hazard to the dogs
75 and shall be of sufficient size as to allow the dogs to stand, sit, lie down,
76 turn around and make normal postural movements. If any such animal
77 control officer finds conditions exist in the breeding kennel that may
78 adversely affect the health and welfare of the dogs, such officer may
79 issue such orders as are necessary for the correction of such conditions.
80 If such animal control officer suspects a communicable or infectious
81 disease is present, such officer may order the licensee to consult a
82 licensed veterinarian in this state at such licensee's own expense to

83 address the suspected health condition. The licensee shall be required to
84 implement any recommendations and orders of the animal control
85 officer and any recommendations of the attending veterinarian. The
86 municipality may suspend, revoke or refuse to issue any license under
87 this section for cause.

88 (c) Any person aggrieved by any order issued under the provisions
89 of this section may appeal to the [Superior Court in accordance with the
90 provisions of section 4-183] superior court of the judicial district in
91 which such municipality is located, provided such appeal is made not
92 later than fifteen days after the date of the order. Any such appeal shall
93 be considered a privileged matter with respect to the order of trial.

94 (d) Any person maintaining a breeding kennel after such license has
95 been revoked or suspended as herein provided shall be guilty of a class
96 [B] D misdemeanor.

97 (e) Any owner or keeper of a breeding kennel who breeds more than
98 two litters of dogs annually and (1) fails to apply for a breeding kennel
99 license as required in subsection (a) of this section, [or] (2) fails to allow
100 an inspection of such facility as required in subsection (b) of this section,
101 or fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this
102 section, shall for a first offense have committed an infraction and for a
103 second or subsequent offense be guilty of a class [B] D misdemeanor.

104 Sec. 3. Section 22-364b of the general statutes is repealed and the
105 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

106 The owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on
107 a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and
108 is in proximity to a [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a
109 disability accompanied by [his guide dog] a service animal, provided
110 [the guide dog] service animal is in the direct custody of such [blind,
111 deaf or mobility impaired] person [, is wearing a harness or an orange-
112 colored leash and collar which makes it readily-identifiable as a guide
113 dog] and is licensed in accordance with section 22-345, as amended by
114 this act. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall

115 have committed an infraction. If an owner or keeper of a dog violates
116 the provisions of this section and, as a result of such violation, such dog
117 attacks and injures the [guide dog] service animal, such owner or keeper
118 shall be liable, as provided in section 22-357, for any damage done to
119 such [guide dog] service animal, and such liability shall include liability
120 for any costs incurred by such [blind, deaf or mobility-impaired] person
121 for the veterinary care, rehabilitation or replacement of the injured
122 [guide dog] service animal and for reasonable attorney's fees.

123 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 26-57a of the general statutes is
124 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
125 *1, 2022*):

126 (d) Until such time as regulations are adopted pursuant to subsection
127 (a) of this section, any person may import one or more reindeer into the
128 state during the period commencing on Thanksgiving Day of each year
129 and ending on the immediately following New Year's Day, or for a
130 period of time not to exceed seven days, provided (1) any reindeer so
131 imported pursuant to this subsection is subsequently exported from the
132 state no later than a week following the end of such period, and (2) such
133 importation complies with the following requirements: Each reindeer so
134 imported (A) is individually identified by a permanent metal ear tag,
135 legible tattoo or microchip, (B) possesses a certified veterinary report of
136 inspection documenting an inspection that occurred at least one day and
137 not more than thirty days prior to entry into the state, (C) possesses
138 documentation that verifies such reindeer (i) comes from a herd that is
139 free of both tuberculosis and brucellosis, or (ii) tested negative for
140 tuberculosis and brucellosis at least one day and not more than thirty
141 days prior to entry into the state, and (D) possesses documentation that
142 the originating herd participated in a state chronic wasting disease
143 monitoring program (i) not less than the prior three years if from a state
144 or province not known to have chronic wasting disease, or (ii) not less
145 than the prior five years if from a state or province known to have
146 chronic wasting disease outbreaks.

147 Sec. 5. Section 22-338 of the general statutes is repealed and the

148 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

149 (a) Each owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or older,
150 except dogs kept under a kennel license as provided in section 22-342,
151 as amended by this act, shall cause such dog to be licensed [in the town
152 clerk's office in the town where such dog is kept] with the Department
153 of Agriculture, on or before June thirtieth, annually, or at such time as
154 such dog becomes six months old, and annually thereafter, on or before
155 June thirtieth. The owner or keeper shall pay to [such town clerk] the
156 Department of Agriculture for such license the sum of [seven] eight
157 dollars for each neutered male or spayed female dog and the sum of
158 twelve dollars for each unneutered male dog and each unspayed female
159 dog, and one additional dollar in each case as the town clerk's fee for
160 issuing a tag and license as provided in section 22-340, as amended by
161 this act. [Two] Three dollars from each license fee collected for a
162 neutered or spayed dog shall be deposited into the animal population
163 control account, established under section 22-380g. If an owner or
164 keeper of a dog fails to procure a license as required by this section, such
165 owner or keeper shall pay the appropriate license fee specified in this
166 section [, the town clerk's fee] and a penalty of one dollar for each month
167 or fraction thereof the dog remains unlicensed.

168 (b) Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog under
169 subsection (a) of this section, except for those owners or keepers
170 possessing a rabies vaccination exemption certificate, or a copy thereof,
171 issued pursuant to section 22-339b, shall submit to the [town clerk]
172 Department of Agriculture a rabies certificate signed by a licensed
173 veterinarian, or a copy thereof, stating that such dog has been
174 vaccinated against rabies, the date of the vaccination and the duration
175 of the immunity provided by the vaccine. No license shall be issued
176 unless the certificate indicates that the immunity provided by the
177 vaccine is effective at the time of licensing.

178 (c) Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog pursuant to
179 subsection (a) of this section that has been exempted from vaccination
180 against rabies pursuant to section 22-339b shall submit to the [town

181 clerk] Department of Agriculture a rabies vaccination exemption
182 certificate issued by the department, or a copy thereof, in lieu of a rabies
183 certificate.

184 (d) This section shall not apply to any dog which is imported into this
185 state for exhibition purposes and which does not remain in this state for
186 more than thirty days. Any person may import, from another state, any
187 licensed dog with collar, tag and rabies vaccination certificate, and keep
188 the same in this state for not more than thirty days, without complying
189 with the provisions of this section.

190 Sec. 6. Section 22-339 of the general statutes is repealed and the
191 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

192 Any person upon becoming the owner or keeper of any unlicensed
193 dog of the age of six months or older shall cause such dog to be licensed
194 within thirty days thereof until the thirtieth day of the ensuing June in
195 the manner and subject to the terms and conditions provided in section
196 22-338, as amended by this act. If the new owner has written proof of
197 purchase or transfer and the license is obtained within thirty days, he
198 shall not be required to pay any penalties as provided by said section
199 for failure to secure a license for a dog over six months of age. [Any
200 person becoming the owner of a licensed dog shall present the license
201 and tag of such dog to the town clerk of the town in which he resides
202 and, for a fee of one dollar, such town clerk shall issue, in lieu thereof, a
203 new license and tag, which shall be recorded in the name of the new
204 owner. Such town clerk shall retain the old license and tag in his
205 possession.]

206 Sec. 7. Section 22-339a of the general statutes is repealed and the
207 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

208 (a) The [town clerk of any town] Commissioner of Agriculture may
209 deputize any town clerk and employees of any dog pound in such town
210 as agents for the issuance of dog licenses and tags. [, provided the town
211 clerk shall be solely responsible for compliance with the provisions of
212 the statutes relating to the duties of the town clerk in connection with

213 such licenses and tags and the moneys received therefor.]

214 (b) Any person acquiring an unlicensed dog from a dog pound shall
215 be issued a temporary license by the [town clerk] Department of
216 Agriculture, or [his] the department's agent deputized pursuant to
217 subsection (a) of this section which shall expire thirty days after the
218 issuance thereof. Prior to the expiration of a temporary license, the
219 person holding the license shall apply for a license for the remainder of
220 the license year, pay the appropriate license fee specified in section 22-
221 338, as amended by this act, and submit a certificate signed by a
222 veterinarian, or a copy thereof, stating (1) that the dog has been
223 vaccinated against rabies, (2) the date of the vaccination and (3) the
224 duration of the immunity provided by the vaccine. No license shall be
225 issued unless the certificate indicates that the immunity provided by the
226 vaccine is effective at the time of licensing.

227 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 22-339c of the general statutes is
228 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
229 *1, 2022*):

230 (a) A certificate of rabies vaccination shall be (1) a form approved by
231 the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians, (2) any form
232 approved by the State Veterinarian, or (3) any form that has the
233 following information regarding the vaccinated animal: (A) The name
234 and address of its owner; (B) a description of the animal which specifies
235 its species, breed, age, color or markings and sex; (C) the date of the
236 vaccination, the duration of the immunity provided by the vaccination,
237 the producer of the vaccine and the vaccine serial number; (D) the rabies
238 tag number; and (E) the signature and license number of the
239 veterinarian administering the vaccination. Such certificate shall be the
240 official proof of rabies vaccination submitted to [a town clerk] the
241 Department of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of section
242 22-338, as amended by this act, or 22-339a, as amended by this act.

243 Sec. 9. Section 22-340 of the general statutes is repealed and the
244 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

245 (a) Each person complying with the provisions of section 22-338, as
246 amended by this act, 22-339, as amended by this act, or 22-342, as
247 amended by this act, shall receive from the [town clerk] Department of
248 Agriculture a license on a form prescribed by the commissioner, which
249 license shall contain a description of the dog and the number under
250 which such dog is licensed. The [town clerk] Department of Agriculture
251 shall issue to such person a tag or plate of material prescribed by the
252 commissioner, upon which shall be distinctly marked [the name of the
253 town in which such dog is licensed,] the license number and the year of
254 license. [No town clerk shall] The Department of Agriculture shall not
255 issue such license or tag to any person for any neutered male or spayed
256 female dog not previously licensed as such unless the person causing
257 the dog to be licensed exhibits to the [town clerk] Department of
258 Agriculture a certificate from a licensed veterinarian stating that such
259 veterinarian has neutered or spayed the dog or that, after examining the
260 dog, [he] the veterinarian finds that the dog has been neutered or
261 spayed.

262 (b) The [town clerk] Department of Agriculture shall provide for the
263 issuance and renewal through the mail of licenses issued under sections
264 22-338, as amended by this act, and 22-339, as amended by this act. The
265 [town clerk] Department of Agriculture may make applications for such
266 licenses available at such facilities as kennels, pet stores, veterinarian
267 offices, humane society offices and pet grooming establishments.

268 Sec. 10. Section 22-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the
269 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

270 Any [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability who
271 is the owner or keeper of a dog which [has been trained and educated
272 to guide and assist such person in traveling upon the public streets or
273 highways or otherwise] is a service animal for such person or is in
274 training to become a service animal shall receive a license and tag for
275 such dog from the [town clerk of the town where such dog is owned or
276 kept] Department of Agriculture. Such license and tag shall be issued in
277 accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, as amended by this

278 act, and no fee shall be required of the owner or keeper of any such dog.
279 When any such dog has not been previously licensed, [by the town clerk
280 to whom application is being made,] such [town clerk] department shall
281 not license such dog or issue to the owner a license and tag unless
282 [written evidence is exhibited to such clerk that the dog is trained and
283 educated and intended in fact to perform such guide service for such
284 applicant] such person provides confirmation to the department that
285 such dog is a service animal or is in training to become a service animal.
286 Any person who has a dog placed with such person temporarily,
287 including for breeding purposes, by a nonprofit organization
288 established for the purpose of training or educating guide dogs to so
289 assist [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] persons with disabilities shall
290 receive a license and tag for such dog from the [town clerk of the town
291 where such dog is kept] Department of Agriculture. Such license and
292 tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340,
293 as amended by this act, and no fee shall be required for such license and
294 tag, provided such person presents [written evidence] confirmation that
295 such dog was placed with such person by such organization. [As used
296 in this section and section 46a-44, "deaf person" means a person who
297 cannot readily understand spoken language through hearing alone and
298 who may also have a speech defect which renders such person's speech
299 unintelligible to most people with normal hearing.]

300 Sec. 11. Section 22-347 of the general statutes is repealed and the
301 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

302 Within thirty days after receipt of the fees for dog licenses and tags,
303 [each town clerk shall deduct] the Commissioner of Agriculture shall
304 remit to each town clerk one dollar for each dog licensed within such
305 town, two dollars for each kennel license issued and fifty cents for each
306 replacement tag issued. [and pay the balance to the town treasurer or
307 other proper fiscal officer. Each town treasurer or fiscal officer, as the
308 case may be,] The Commissioner of Agriculture shall keep a separate
309 dog fund account of all fees received [from the town clerk, and all
310 receipts from the municipal animal control officer] and expended by
311 said [officer] commissioner under the provisions of this chapter. [, and

312 shall pay to the Commissioner of Agriculture, on September first of each
313 year, fifty per cent of all moneys received from the sale of licenses prior
314 to July first, or forty per cent of all such moneys if the town has made a
315 survey of unlicensed dogs in accordance with the provisions of section
316 22-349, and include with such payment a statement of the number of
317 licenses issued during such year. All moneys received from licenses sold
318 after June thirtieth and all moneys received from the municipal animal
319 control officer and all license fees returned to the town by the State
320 Treasurer, at the request of the commissioner, under the provisions of
321 section 22-348 shall be kept by the town treasurer or other fiscal officer
322 in the separate dog fund account. The town treasurer or other fiscal
323 officer shall, on the ensuing September first, send fifty per cent, or forty
324 per cent as the case may be, of all license fees in such account to the
325 commissioner, including any penalty fees collected pursuant to section
326 22-338. All payments to the commissioner shall be accompanied by an
327 account thereof in a form prescribed by the commissioner and a copy of
328 such account shall be sent to the commissioner. Upon the failure of any
329 town treasurer or other fiscal officer to pay any amount due pursuant to
330 this section, or any portion thereof, within forty-five days from its due
331 date, the commissioner shall add interest of one and one-fourth per cent
332 per month or fraction thereof on the amount unpaid per month or
333 fraction thereof from the due date of such payment to the date of
334 payment and a penalty in the amount of ten per cent of the amount
335 unpaid or fifty dollars, whichever is greater. All funds in the dog fund
336 account, except such funds as are to be sent to the commissioner, shall
337 be used only for the compensation of municipal animal control officers,
338 license certificates, tags, the construction and maintenance of dog
339 pounds, the detention and care of impounded dogs in accordance with
340 section 22-336, municipal animal control officer's equipment, dog
341 supplies and such veterinary fees as are provided for by law or
342 regulations and shall not be used for any other purpose except upon
343 written approval of the commissioner.] No fees paid [into the treasury
344 of the town] for tags or licenses for dogs shall be paid back to the persons
345 from whom they were collected.

346 Sec. 12. Section 22-349 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 347 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

348 The [town clerk of each town] Department of Agriculture shall,
 349 annually, on or before July first, provide the municipal animal control
 350 officer or regional animal control officer of each town with a copy of
 351 each dog license issued in such town by such [clerk] department. Such
 352 municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer shall
 353 thereupon make diligent search for any unlicensed dog required to be
 354 licensed by section 22-338, as amended by this act. The commissioner
 355 shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54
 356 establishing procedures for such search. If the owner of any such
 357 unlicensed dog is not known, the municipal animal control officer or
 358 regional animal control officer shall impound such dog. The owning or
 359 keeping of an unlicensed or impounded dog and the failure to purchase
 360 a license and pay the advertising and redemption fee within one
 361 hundred and twenty hours from the time the dog was impounded shall
 362 be an infraction.

363 Sec. 13. Section 22-380l of the general statutes is repealed and the
 364 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

365 For each license issued pursuant to section 22-338, as amended by this
 366 act, for an unspayed or unneutered dog, the [town clerk] Department of
 367 Agriculture shall collect a surcharge of [six] eight dollars which shall be
 368 deposited by such [clerk] department into the animal population control
 369 account established pursuant to section 22-380g.

370 Sec. 14. Sections 22-9 and 22-352 of the general statutes are repealed.
 371 (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	22-61d
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-342
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-364b
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	26-57a(d)

Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-338
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-339
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-339a
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-339c(a)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-340
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-345
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-347
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-349
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	22-380 l
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To revise the regulatory services of the Department of Agriculture pertaining to the labeling of certain seeds, the licensure of breeding kennels, the importation of reindeer and the licensure of dogs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]