



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2022

LCO No. 5018



Offered by:

REP. GRESKO, 121st Dist.
REP. HARDING, 107th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.
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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5295

File No. 472

Cal. No. 335

"AN ACT CONCERNING AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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 Section 22-11c of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

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 Section 22-26e of the general statutes is repealed and the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

14 (a) There is hereby established a Governor's Council for Agricultural
15 [Development for advisory] Development and Innovation within the
16 Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes only, consisting
17 of the following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, who
18 shall serve as the chairperson of the council, (2) the dean of the College
19 of Agriculture and Natural Resources at The University of Connecticut,
20 or the dean's designee, who shall serve as co-vice-chairperson, (3) the
21 [chairperson] executive director of the Connecticut [Milk Promotion
22 Board] Farm Bureau, or the [chairperson's] executive director's
23 designee, (4) six members appointed by the Governor, who shall each
24 be actively engaged in agricultural production or aquaculture
25 production, provided not less than one of whom shall be socially
26 disadvantaged, as defined by the United States Department of
27 Agriculture, and not less than one of whom shall be engaged in
28 aquaculture production, (5) one member appointed by the speaker of
29 the House of Representatives, who shall be engaged in [agricultural
30 processing] urban agriculture production, (6) one member appointed by
31 the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be engaged in
32 agricultural marketing, (7) one member appointed by the majority
33 leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be [engaged in
34 agricultural sales] a new and beginning farmer, as defined by the United
35 States Department of Agriculture, (8) one member appointed by the
36 majority leader of the Senate, who shall be from a trade association, (9)
37 one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of
38 Representatives, who shall be from the green industry, [and] (10) one
39 member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
40 actively engaged in agricultural education, and (11) the director of the
41 Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, or the director's designee,
42 who shall serve as the co-vice-chairperson. Each member appointed
43 pursuant to subdivisions (4) to (10), inclusive, of this subsection shall
44 serve for a term of three years from the date of such member's
45 appointment.

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

61 (c) The council shall meet not less than once per calendar quarter and
62 (1) as often as deemed necessary by the chairperson, or (2) upon a call
63 for such a meeting by a quorum of the membership of the council. A
64 majority of the members on the council shall constitute a quorum. Any
65 vacancy in the membership of the council shall be filled by the
66 [Governor] applicable appointing authority. The members shall serve
67 without compensation or reimbursement for expenses. Any member
68 absent from more than two meetings in a calendar year shall be deemed
69 to have resigned.

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

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

76 (2) Any such labeling described in subdivision (1) of this subsection
77 shall be performed by a person who is registered with the

78 Commissioner of Agriculture.

79 (3) Any person who labels seed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
80 subsection shall register annually with the Commissioner of
81 Agriculture. The application for a seed labeler registration shall be
82 submitted to the commissioner in a manner and on a form prescribed
83 by the commissioner. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of
84 one hundred dollars. All seed labeler registrations shall expire on March
85 thirty-first of each year.

86 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 26-57a of the general statutes is
87 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
88 *1, 2022*):

89 (d) Until such time as regulations are adopted pursuant to subsection
90 (a) of this section, any person may import one or more reindeer into the
91 state during the period commencing on Thanksgiving Day of each year
92 and ending on the immediately following New Year's Day, or for a
93 period of time not to exceed seven days, provided (1) any reindeer so
94 imported pursuant to this subsection is subsequently exported from the
95 state no later than a week following the end of such period, and (2) such
96 importation complies with the following requirements: Each reindeer so
97 imported (A) is individually identified by a permanent metal ear tag,
98 legible tattoo or microchip, (B) possesses a certified veterinary report of
99 inspection documenting an inspection that occurred at least one day and
100 not more than thirty days prior to entry into the state, (C) possesses
101 documentation that verifies such reindeer (i) comes from a herd that is
102 free of both tuberculosis and brucellosis, or (ii) tested negative for
103 tuberculosis and brucellosis at least one day and not more than thirty
104 days prior to entry into the state, and (D) possesses documentation that
105 the originating herd participated in a state chronic wasting disease
106 monitoring program (i) not less than the prior three years if from a state
107 or province not known to have chronic wasting disease, or (ii) not less
108 than the prior five years if from a state or province known to have
109 chronic wasting disease outbreaks.

110 Sec. 5. Section 22-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the
111 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2023*):

112 Any [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability who
113 is the owner or keeper of a dog which [has been trained and educated
114 to guide and assist such person in traveling upon the public streets or
115 highways or otherwise] has been trained as a service animal, is in
116 training to become a service animal for such person, is in training to
117 become a service animal or is enrolled in a program described in section
118 17a-22ee shall receive a license and tag for such dog from the town clerk
119 of the town where such dog is owned or kept. Such license and tag shall
120 be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, and no fee
121 shall be required of the owner or keeper of any such dog. When any
122 such dog has not been previously licensed, by the town clerk to whom
123 application is being made and it is not obvious that the dog is a service
124 animal, such town clerk [shall not license such dog or issue to the owner
125 a license and tag unless written evidence is exhibited to such clerk that
126 the dog is trained and educated and intended in fact to perform such
127 guide service for such applicant] may inquire of such owner or keeper
128 whether the dog is a service animal required because of a disability and
129 what work or task the dog has been trained to perform. Any person who
130 has a dog placed with such person temporarily, including for breeding
131 purposes, by a nonprofit organization established for the purpose of
132 training or educating [guide dogs to so assist blind, deaf or mobility
133 impaired persons] the dog as a service animal shall receive a license and
134 tag for such dog from the town clerk of the town where such dog is kept.
135 Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions
136 of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required for such license and tag,
137 provided such person presents [written evidence] confirmation that
138 such dog was placed with such person by such organization. [As used
139 in this section and section 46a-44, "deaf person" means a person who
140 cannot readily understand spoken language through hearing alone and
141 who may also have a speech defect which renders such person's speech
142 unintelligible to most people with normal hearing.] As used in this
143 section, (1) "disability" means any one or more of the following, as

144 defined in section 46a-51: (A) An intellectual disability, (B) physically
 145 disabled, (C) a mental disability, or (D) a learning disability; and (2)
 146 "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in 28 CFR 35.104, as
 147 amended from time to time, and includes a service animal in training.

148 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall
 149 convene a working group with the Connecticut Town Clerks
 150 Association for the purpose of developing a plan to create a state-wide
 151 online dog licensing portal. The commissioner and the president of the
 152 Connecticut Town Clerks Association, or their designees, shall serve as
 153 the co-chairpersons of such working group and shall convene the first
 154 meeting of such working group not later than thirty days after the
 155 effective date of this section. Such working group shall consist of
 156 representatives of the Department of Agriculture, members of the
 157 Connecticut Town Clerks Association, a representative from the
 158 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, a representative from the
 159 Council of Small Towns and any other person or organization deemed
 160 necessary by the commissioner and the president of the Connecticut
 161 Town Clerks Association. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to,
 162 provisions for the pre-use testing of the portal described in this section
 163 by each category of intended users of such portal and a recommendation
 164 for a date to implement the use of such portal on a state-wide basis. Not
 165 later than January 1, 2023, the commissioner and the president of the
 166 Connecticut Town Clerks Association shall submit such plan to the joint
 167 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 168 matters relating to the environment in addition to any requisite
 169 legislative proposals that are consistent with the components of such
 170 plan.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2022	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>June 1, 2023</i>	22-345
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section