Senate

General Assembly

File No. 247

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 196

Senate, April 4, 2024

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HARVESTING OF RABBITS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall be the state official in charge of inspecting any producer and any producer that also operates as a rabbit processing facility. Any inspection conducted pursuant to this section by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designated agent, shall be consistent with the requirements of any applicable provision of the Code of Federal Regulations, including, but not limited to, any health, sanitary and safety-related provision. Rabbit processing facilities that have passed Department of Agriculture facility inspections pursuant to this section shall be designated as approved food sources for household consumers, restaurants, hotels, boarding houses and retail food establishments. For purposes of this section, "producer" means any person who is engaged in farming, as defined in section 1-1 of the general statutes, and who breeds, raises or keeps not more than one

thousand rabbits in a calendar year for the purpose of food production.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2024*	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill is not anticipated to result in state or municipal impact because the inspections required by the bill will be completed by existing Department of Agriculture staff.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 196

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HARVESTING OF RABBITS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY.

SUMMARY

This bill generally imposes inspection standards on rabbit processing facilities and deems certain inspected facilities as approved food sources for human consumption.

Specifically, the bill makes the agriculture commissioner the state official in charge of inspecting rabbit producers and processing facilities. It defines a "producer" as a farmer who breeds, raises, or keeps up to 1,000 rabbits in a year for food production purposes. The bill requires that inspections done by the commissioner or his designated agent be consistent with federal health, sanitation, and safety regulations. It also designates a rabbit processing facility that passes inspection as an approved food source for household consumers, restaurants, hotels, boarding houses, and retail food establishments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 19 Nay 15 (03/20/2024)