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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 194**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN FARMING PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a year-round harvest season for vehicles transporting agricultural products (§ 4). This allows agricultural product transporters to be exempt from federal hours of service and electronic logging device requirements when transporting commodities or farm supplies within 150 air miles of their home base or farm.

The bill also eliminates the current requirement that the agriculture commissioner consult with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner before approving a request to remove a development rights restriction from agricultural land preserved under either the Farmland Preservation Program or Community Farm Preservation Program (§§ 1 & 2). In practice, DEEP is not consulted in these matters.

Lastly, the bill repeals various agriculture statutes (§ 5) and makes a conforming change (§ 3).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **REPEALED STATUTES**

The bill repeals statutes that do the following:

1. requires the agriculture commissioner to establish and administer Connecticut Farm Fresh Market and Connecticut Farm Fresh Restaurant certification programs and makes grocery stores' access to economic development grants contingent on their certification as a farm fresh market (CGS § 22-38b);

2. allows the Seafood Advisory Council to use funds and enter into contracts, both of which it can already do under other statutes (CGS § 22-457); and
3. limits the agriculture department's aquaculture industry resource assessment permits to no more than 100 acres of assessed area per permit, requires buoys be placed to identify the area, and requires the department to notify abutting shellfish ground owners or lease holders of the permit (CGS § 26-237e).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/08/2024)