General Assembly

Committee Bill No. 5134

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **4702**

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RABBIT PROCESSING IN THE STATE.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) 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, 2025*	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide a way for rabbits to be processed in the state for consumption by consumers and retail food establishments.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. YACCARINO, 87th Dist.

H.B. 5134