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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 5015

#### ***AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPIN-OFF COMPANIES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) employees to form, serve as board members of, or be compensated by start-up companies that develop and commercialize products based on the employees' inventions and discoveries.

It requires the CAES control board to establish policies and procedures so that exercising this employee right is consistent with the rights of researchers at public universities and agencies in Connecticut and applicable legal and ethical requirements. It also allows the CAES control board to adopt related regulations.

The bill applies regardless of existing law, under which CAES's control board may seek and obtain patents, trademarks, and licensing agreements relating to inventions and discoveries by station employees. By law, CAES is entitled to own the entire right, title, and interest in any employee's invention or discovery that (1) is conceived in the course of the employee performing customary or assigned duties; (2) emerges from any research, development, or other station program; or (3) is conceived or developed wholly or partly at the station's expense, or with the aid of its equipment, facilities, or personnel. By law, depending on the circumstances, employees may share in the proceeds of their work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 0 (02/19/2025)