



Substitute House Bill No. 5295

Public Act No. 22-54

AN ACT CONCERNING AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION.

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

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 Section 22-11c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

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

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

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 Section 22-26e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

(a) There is hereby established a Governor's Council for Agricultural [Development for advisory] Development and Innovation within the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes only, consisting of the following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, who shall serve as the chairperson of the council, (2) the dean of the College

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of Agriculture and Natural Resources at The University of Connecticut, or the dean's designee, who shall serve as co-vice-chairperson, (3) the [chairperson] executive director of the Connecticut [Milk Promotion Board] Farm Bureau, or the [chairperson's] executive director's designee, (4) six members appointed by the Governor, who shall each be actively engaged in agricultural production or aquaculture production, provided not less than one of whom shall be socially disadvantaged, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, and not less than one of whom shall be engaged in aquaculture production, (5) one member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be engaged in [agricultural processing] urban agriculture production, (6) one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be engaged in agricultural marketing, (7) one member appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be [engaged in agricultural sales] a new and beginning farmer, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, (8) one member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be from a trade association, (9) one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be from the green industry, [and] (10) one member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be actively engaged in agricultural education, and (11) the director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, or the director's designee, who shall serve as the co-vice-chairperson. Each member appointed pursuant to subdivisions (4) to (10), inclusive, of this subsection shall serve for a term of three years from the date of such member's appointment.

(b) The council shall make recommendations to the Department of Agriculture on ways to increase [the percentage of consumer dollars spent on Connecticut-grown fresh produce and farm products, including, but not limited to, ways to increase the amount of money spent by residents of the state on locally-grown farm products, by 2020,

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to not less than five per cent of all money spent by such residents on food] agriculture in the state by developing innovative market opportunities including, but not limited to, urban agriculture, integration and adoption of new technologies, controlled environment agriculture and diversification of products and opportunities. The council shall also make recommendations concerning the development, diversification and promotion of [agricultural products, programs and enterprises] agriculture in this state and shall provide for an interchange of ideas from the various commodity groups and organizations represented.

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

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

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

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

(3) Any person who labels seed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this

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subsection shall register annually with the Commissioner of Agriculture. The application for a seed labeler registration shall be submitted to the commissioner in a manner and on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars. All seed labeler registrations shall expire on March thirty-first of each year.

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

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

Sec. 5. Section 22-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective June 1, 2023*):

Any [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability who is the owner or keeper of a dog which [has been trained and educated to guide and assist such person in traveling upon the public streets or highways or otherwise] has been trained as a service animal, is in training to become a service animal for such person, is in training to become a service animal or is enrolled in a program described in section 17a-22ee shall receive a license and tag for such dog from the town clerk of the town where such dog is owned or kept. Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required of the owner or keeper of any such dog. When any such dog has not been previously licensed, by the town clerk to whom application is being made and it is not obvious that the dog is a service animal, such town clerk [shall not license such dog or issue to the owner a license and tag unless written evidence is exhibited to such clerk that the dog is trained and educated and intended in fact to perform such guide service for such applicant] may inquire of such owner or keeper whether the dog is a service animal required because of a disability and what work or task the dog has been trained to perform. Any person who has a dog placed with such person temporarily, including for breeding purposes, by a nonprofit organization established for the purpose of training or educating [guide dogs to so assist blind, deaf or mobility impaired persons] the dog as a service animal shall receive a license and tag for such dog from the town clerk of the town where such dog is kept. Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required for such license and tag, provided such person presents [written evidence] confirmation that such dog was placed with such person by such organization. [As used in this section and section 46a-44, "deaf person" means a person who cannot readily understand spoken language through hearing alone and who may also have a speech defect which renders such person's speech unintelligible to most people with normal hearing.] As used in this

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section, (1) "disability" means any one or more of the following, as defined in section 46a-51: (A) An intellectual disability, (B) physically disabled, (C) a mental disability, or (D) a learning disability; and (2) "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in 28 CFR 35.104, as amended from time to time, and includes a service animal in training.

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

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