

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6241

LCO No. **5387**

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by: (ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IN CONNECTICUT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this 2 section:

3 (1) "Agricultural production" means commercial aquaculture, 4 algaculture, apiculture, animal husbandry, poultry husbandry, the 5 production, for a commercial purpose, of timber, field crops, tobacco, 6 fruits, vegetables, nursery stock, ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees, 7 flowers or sod, the growth of timber for a noncommercial purpose if the 8 land on which the timber is grown is contiguous to or part of a parcel of 9 land under common ownership that is otherwise devoted exclusively to 10 agricultural use and any combination of such husbandry, production or 11 growth, including the processing, drying, storage and marketing of 12 agricultural products, when such activities are conducted in conjunction with such husbandry, production or growth; 13

(2) "Agritourism" means any agriculturally related educational,entertainment, historical, cultural or recreational activity, including

16 you-pick operations or farm markets that are conducted on a farm that

allows or invites members of the general public to observe, participatein or enjoy such activity;

(3) "Agritourism provider" means any person who owns, operates,
provides or sponsors an agritourism activity or an employee of such a
person who engages in or provides agritourism activities, whether or
not for a fee;

(4) "Farm" means land that is composed of tracts, lots or parcels
totaling not less than ten acres that are devoted to agricultural
production, or totaling less than ten acres that are devoted to
agricultural production if the land produces an average yearly gross
income of not less than twenty-five hundred dollars from such
agricultural production;

(5) "Participant" means any individual, other than an agritourism
provider, who observes or participates in an agritourism activity; and

(6) "Risk inherent in an agritourism activity" means any danger or
condition that is an integral part of an agritourism activity, including
each of the following:

34 (A) The surface and subsurface conditions of land;

(B) The behavior or actions of wild animals not kept by or under thecontrol of an agritourism provider;

37 (C) The behavior or actions of domestic animals, other than damage
38 by dogs, as described in section 22-357 of the general statutes;

39 (D) The ordinary dangers associated with structures or equipment40 ordinarily used in farming or ranching operations;

41 (E) The possibility of contracting illness resulting from physical
42 contact with animals, animal feed, animal waste or surfaces
43 contaminated by animal waste; or

(F) The possibility that a participant may act in a negligent manner,
including by failing to follow instructions given by the agritourism
provider or by failing to exercise reasonable caution while engaging in
the agritourism activity that may contribute to injury to such participant
or another participant.

(b) In any civil action, an agritourism provider shall be immune from liability for any harm a participant sustains during an agritourism activity if the participant is harmed as a result of a risk inherent in an agritourism activity. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an agritourism provider to eliminate risks inherent in agritourism activities.

(c) An agritourism provider shall not be immune from civil liabilityfor harm sustained by a participant if any of the following applies:

57 (1) The agritourism provider acts negligently or with a wilful or 58 wanton disregard for the safety of the participant;

59 (2) The agritourism provider purposefully causes harm to the60 participant;

61 (3) The agritourism provider's actions or inactions constitute criminal62 conduct and cause harm to the participant;

(4) The agritourism provider fails to post and maintain signs asrequired by subdivision (5) of this subsection; or

(5) The agritourism provider has actual knowledge or should have had actual knowledge of an existing dangerous condition on the land or regarding facilities or equipment on the land that is not an inherent risk and does not make the dangerous condition known to the participant through the posting and maintaining of warning signs, and the dangerous condition proximately causes injury, damage or death to the participant.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the follo	wing
sections:	

Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement measures designed to assist farmers financially and enable the state's agricultural industry to sustain.

[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. FOSTER, 57th Dist.

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