



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 10072



Offered by:

SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.
SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.
SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.
REP. PARKER, 101st Dist.
REP. CALLAHAN, 108th Dist.

REP. CANDELORA V., 86th Dist.
REP. GRESKO, 121st Dist.
REP. DUBITSKY, 47th Dist.
REP. HORN, 64th Dist.
REP. FOSTER, 57th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1497

File No. 671

Cal. No. 360

**"AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMMING AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 22-26f of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
5 *passage*):

6 (a) There shall be a State Veterinarian who shall be an employee of
7 the Department of Agriculture and shall serve as the state animal health
8 official for the state. The Commissioner of Agriculture may designate
9 one or more veterinarians to exercise all or part of the authority, powers
10 and duties of the State Veterinarian. [in the absence of the State
11 Veterinarian.] Any veterinarian designated by the commissioner

12 pursuant to this subsection shall meet the requirements of subsection (b)
13 of this section. Any designation of a veterinarian made pursuant to this
14 subsection shall be utilized within existing resources and be consistent
15 with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 5-235.

16 Sec. 2. Section 22-111c of the general statutes is repealed and the
17 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

18 (a) Each brand and grade of fertilizer shall be registered in the name
19 of the person whose name appears on the label for such fertilizer before
20 being distributed in this state. The application for registration shall be
21 submitted to the commissioner on a form furnished by the
22 commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of seventy-five dollars.
23 [On and after January 1, 2010, said] Said fee shall be established by the
24 commissioner by regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions
25 of section 22-111j, provided such fee does not exceed seventy-five
26 dollars. The application shall include the following information: (1) The
27 net weight; (2) the brand and grade; (3) the guaranteed analysis; and (4)
28 the name and address of the registrant. Upon approval of the
29 application by the commissioner, a copy of the registration shall be
30 furnished to the applicant. All registrations shall expire on June thirtieth
31 of each year.

32 (b) A distributor shall not be required to register any fertilizer which
33 is already registered under this chapter by another person, provided the
34 label for such exempted fertilizer does not differ in any material respect
35 to such previously registered fertilizer.

36 (c) A distributor shall not be required to register fertilizer formulated
37 according to specifications which are furnished by a consumer prior to
38 mixing; but shall be required to label such fertilizer as provided in
39 subsection (c) of section 22-111d.

40 Sec. 3. Section 22-111bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
41 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

42 (a) No person may distribute a soil amendment unless it has been

43 registered with the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of
44 this section. An application for registration shall be submitted annually
45 to the commissioner on the form furnished or approved by the
46 commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee established by the
47 Commissioner of Agriculture that shall not exceed seventy-five dollars.
48 Upon approval of the application by the commissioner, a copy of the
49 registration shall be furnished to the applicant. Such registration shall
50 expire on September thirtieth of the following year. Each distributor
51 shall submit to the commissioner a copy of labels and any advertising
52 literature for each soil amendment with the registration application.

53 (b) A distributor shall not be required to register any brand of soil
54 amendment that is already registered under this section by another
55 person, providing the label does not differ in any respect.

56 (c) Before registering any soil amendment, the commissioner may
57 require evidence to substantiate the claims made for the soil amendment
58 and proof of the value and usefulness of the soil amendment.

59 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 22-341 of the general statutes is
60 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
61 *1, 2025*):

62 (b) The town clerk of each town shall order a sufficient number of
63 such tags or plates from the commissioner, who shall furnish the same
64 at [a cost of five cents each] the cost incurred to procure and distribute
65 such tags or plates, which cost shall be paid by the town on the approval
66 of the town clerk. [Any balance of the moneys received by the
67 commissioner after deducting the cost of the tags, the expenses
68 incidental to their distribution to the town clerks and the expenses
69 incidental to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, shall be
70 accounted for by the commissioner to the Comptroller.] The design and
71 the shape of such tags or plates shall be changed each year, and such
72 tags or plates for each year shall be of uniform design and material
73 throughout the state. Any dog found roaming at large upon any public
74 highway or common or upon the premises of any person other than its

75 owner, without a tag as provided in this section, shall be presumed to
76 be an unlicensed dog.

77 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026, and applicable to income and*
78 *taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this
79 section:

80 (1) "Eligible farmer" means a taxpayer in this state whose federal
81 gross income from farming for the income or taxable year is at least two-
82 thirds of excess federal gross income;

83 (2) "Excess federal gross income" means the amount of federal gross
84 income from all sources for the income or taxable year in excess of thirty
85 thousand dollars;

86 (3) "Agricultural production" has the same meaning as provided in
87 subdivision (63) of section 12-412 of the general statutes and includes
88 the production of: (A) Wine from a farm winery licensed pursuant to
89 section 30-16 of the general statutes, (B) Christmas trees, whether dug
90 for transplanting or cut from the stump, and (C) apple juice and cider
91 by a farmer who holds both an apple juice and cider manufacturing
92 permit and a farmer tax exemption permit issued pursuant to section
93 12-412 of the general statutes;

94 (4) "Farm investment property" means machinery and equipment
95 that are acquired by purchase by an eligible farmer on or after January
96 1, 2026, and buildings and structural components of buildings that are
97 acquired, constructed, reconstructed or erected by an eligible farmer
98 and placed in service on or after January 1, 2026, and (A) are situated in
99 this state, (B) have a class life of more than four years, as described in
100 Section 168(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
101 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended
102 from time to time, (C) are acquired by an eligible farmer from a person
103 other than a related person, (D) are not acquired to be leased, and are
104 not leased, to another person or persons during the twelve full months
105 following their acquisition or placement in service, and (E) will be held

106 and used in this state by the eligible farmer in the ordinary course of
107 agricultural production for not less than five full years following the
108 date of acquisition of such machinery and equipment or the date of
109 placement in service of such buildings;

110 (5) "Related person" means (A) a corporation, limited liability
111 company, partnership, association or trust controlled by the taxpayer,
112 (B) an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,
113 association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, (C) a corporation,
114 limited liability company, partnership, association or trust controlled by
115 an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,
116 association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, or (D) a member of
117 the same controlled group as the taxpayer; and

118 (6) "Control" means (A) with respect to a corporation, ownership,
119 directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty per cent or more of the
120 total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of such
121 corporation entitled to vote, or (B) with respect to a trust, ownership,
122 directly or indirectly, of fifty per cent or more of the beneficial interest
123 in the principal or income of such trust. The ownership (i) of stock in a
124 corporation, (ii) of a capital or profits interest in a partnership or
125 association, or (iii) of a beneficial interest in a trust shall be determined
126 in accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock
127 provided in Section 267(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
128 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,
129 as amended from time to time, other than paragraph (3) of said section.

130 (b) A taxpayer, in determining income eligibility for purposes of this
131 section, may use for any income or taxable year the average of the
132 taxpayer's federal gross income from farming for such income or taxable
133 year and the two consecutive income or taxable years immediately
134 preceding.

135 (c) (1) There shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed under
136 chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes, other than the liability
137 imposed by section 12-707 of the general statutes, of twenty per cent of

138 the amount paid or incurred during an income or a taxable year for farm
139 investment property by a taxpayer that is an eligible farmer.

140 (2) If the taxpayer is an S corporation or an entity treated as a
141 partnership for federal income tax purposes, the credit may be claimed
142 by the taxpayer's shareholders or partners. If the taxpayer is a single
143 member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity
144 separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by such limited
145 liability company's owner, provided such owner is subject to the tax
146 imposed under chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes.

147 (3) If the amount of the credit allowed pursuant to this section
148 exceeds the taxpayer's liability for the tax imposed under chapter 208 or
149 229 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall
150 treat such excess as an overpayment and, except as provided in section
151 12-739 or 12-742 of the general statutes, shall refund the amount of such
152 excess, without interest, to such taxpayer.

153 (4) No taxpayer claiming the credit under this section with respect to
154 the acquisition of farm investment property may claim a credit against
155 any tax under any other provision of the general statutes with respect to
156 the same acquisition.

157 (d) If the farm investment property for which a taxpayer has claimed
158 the credit allowed under this section is not held and used in this state in
159 the ordinary course of agricultural production in this state for three full
160 years following its acquisition, the taxpayer shall recapture one
161 hundred per cent of the amount of the credit allowed under this section
162 on its tax return required to be filed for the income or taxable year
163 immediately succeeding the income or taxable year during which such
164 three-year period expires. If the farm investment property for which a
165 taxpayer has claimed the credit allowed under this section is not held
166 and used in this state in the ordinary course of agricultural production
167 in this state for five full years following its acquisition, the taxpayer shall
168 recapture fifty per cent of the amount of the credit allowed under this
169 section on its tax return required to be filed for the income or taxable

170 year immediately succeeding the income or taxable year during which
171 such five-year period expires. The provisions of this subsection shall not
172 apply if the property that is the subject of the credit under this section is
173 replaced. If any amount of credit required to be recaptured has not been
174 paid to the commissioner on or before the first day of the fourth month
175 next succeeding the end of the income year immediately succeeding the
176 income year during which the three-year or five-year period, as the case
177 may be, expires, such amount shall bear interest at the rate of one per
178 cent per month or fraction thereof from such date to the date of
179 payment.

180 Sec. 6. Section 12-91 of the general statutes is repealed and the
181 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and*
182 *applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

183 (a) All farm machinery, except motor vehicles, as defined in section
184 14-1, to the assessed value of [one] two hundred fifty thousand dollars,
185 any horse or pony that is actually and exclusively used in farming, as
186 defined in section 1-1, when owned and kept in this state by, or when
187 held in trust for, any farmer or group of farmers operating as a unit, a
188 partnership or a corporation, a majority of the stock of which
189 corporation is held by members of a family actively engaged in farm
190 operations, shall be exempt from local property taxation; provided each
191 such farmer, whether operating individually or as one of a group,
192 partnership or corporation, shall qualify for such exemption in
193 accordance with the standards set forth in subsection (d) of this section
194 for the assessment year for which such exemption is sought. Only one
195 such exemption shall be allowed to each such farmer, group of farmers,
196 partnership or corporation. Subdivision (38) of section 12-81 shall not
197 apply to any person, group, partnership or corporation receiving the
198 exemption provided for in this subsection.

199 (b) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may
200 provide an additional exemption from property tax for such machinery
201 to the extent of an additional assessed value of two hundred fifty
202 thousand dollars. Any such exemption shall be subject to the same

203 limitations as the exemption provided under subsection (a) of this
204 section and the application and qualification process provided in
205 subsection (d) of this section.

206 (c) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may
207 provide an exemption from property tax for any building used actually
208 and exclusively in farming, as defined in section 1-1, or for any building
209 used to provide housing for seasonal employees of such farmer. The
210 municipality shall establish the amount of such exemption from the
211 assessed value, provided such amount may not exceed five hundred
212 thousand dollars with respect to each eligible building. Such exemption
213 shall not apply to the residence of such farmer and shall be subject to
214 the application and qualification process provided in subsection (d) of
215 this section.

216 (d) Annually, on or before the first day of November or the extended
217 filing date granted by the assessor pursuant to section 12-42, each such
218 individual farmer, group of farmers, partnership or corporation shall
219 make written application for the exemption provided for in subsection
220 (a) of this section to the assessor or board of assessors in the town in
221 which such farm is located, including therewith a notarized affidavit
222 certifying that such farmer, individually or as part of a group,
223 partnership or corporation, derived at least fifteen thousand dollars in
224 gross sales from such farming operation, or incurred at least fifteen
225 thousand dollars in expenses related to such farming operation, with
226 respect to the most recently completed taxable year of such farmer prior
227 to the commencement of the assessment year for which such application
228 is made, on forms to be prescribed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.
229 Failure to file such application in said manner and form on or before the
230 first day of November shall be considered a waiver of the right to such
231 exemption for the assessment year. Any person aggrieved by any action
232 of the assessors shall have the same rights and remedies for appeal and
233 relief as are provided in the general statutes for taxpayers claiming to be
234 aggrieved by the doings of the assessors or board of assessment appeals.

235 Sec. 7. Subsection (e) of section 22a-54 of the general statutes is

236 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
237 *passage*):

238 (e) The following provisions shall govern the certification of aircraft
239 applicators:

240 (1) No person shall apply, offer to apply or cause to be applied any
241 pesticide or fertilizer by aircraft without a certificate or permit issued in
242 accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

243 (2) Upon application of any person qualified to fly an aircraft, the
244 commissioner may issue a certificate for the application of pesticides or
245 fertilizers by aircraft. Application for said certificate shall be on forms
246 provided by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty
247 dollars.

248 (3) The commissioner may issue a permit to the owner of any crop or
249 land, or to a representative designated by such owner, for application of
250 pesticides or fertilizers by a certified aircraft applicator. Application for
251 said permit shall be on forms provided by the commissioner and shall
252 be accompanied by a fee established by the commissioner by regulations
253 adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 provided the
254 fee shall be not less than twenty dollars. The commissioner may waive
255 the application form and fee requirements imposed pursuant to
256 regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 in
257 circumstances where application of broad spectrum chemical pesticides
258 from the air is necessary to control specific vectors of human disease
259 which pose an imminent threat to public health. The commissioner may
260 require inspection of the crop or area and its immediate environs and
261 approval as follows:

262 (A) For agricultural crops, nurseries and orchards, by the director of
263 the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station;

264 (B) For rodent control, woodland spraying and mosquito control
265 spraying, by the commissioner;

266 (C) For control of vectors of human disease, by the Commissioner of
267 Public Health.

268 (4) The commissioner shall designate the kind and amount of
269 pesticides permitted for use by aircraft. Permits for aircraft spraying in
270 congested areas shall be issued only with the approval of the director of
271 health of the municipality in which the operation is to be conducted
272 except in circumstances where the commissioner determines that the
273 application of broad spectrum chemical pesticides from the air is
274 necessary to control specific vectors of human disease which pose an
275 imminent threat to public health.

276 (5) (A) The commissioner, with the advice of the Commissioner of
277 Transportation, may adopt such regulations as [he deems] are necessary
278 for the protection of public health, aquatic and animal life and public
279 and private property, governing:

280 [(A)] (i) The type of aircraft to be used;

281 [(B)] (ii) The hours during which aircraft may be so used;

282 [(C)] (iii) The wind and weather conditions under which aircraft
283 spraying or dusting may be performed;

284 [(D)] (iv) The minimum area on which aircraft spraying or dusting
285 may be done; and

286 [(E)] (v) The amount of public liability and property damage
287 insurance to be carried by the aircraft applicator.

288 (B) Not later than March 1, 2026, the commissioner shall amend the
289 regulations adopted pursuant to this subdivision to authorize the use of
290 unmanned aircrafts to analyze, treat and apply pesticides and fertilizers
291 to crops and for the planting of seeds by any person who is: (i) Licensed
292 by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate such unmanned
293 aircrafts, and (ii) a licensed commercial or private pesticide applicator.

294 (6) No person may apply pesticides or fungicides by aircraft or by

295 misting-type devices to shade tobacco crops within three hundred feet
296 of an inhabited residential building for which a certificate of occupancy
297 was issued prior to January 1, 1997, without the written permission of
298 the owner of such building, except spray applications may be
299 administered within the confines of the netting. This subdivision shall
300 not apply to an application of pesticides or fungicides to land which was
301 poled for the cultivation of shade tobacco between January 1, 1994, and
302 January 1, 1997.

303 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding any
304 provision of the State Building Code, the agricultural use of structures
305 commonly referred to as "hoop houses" or "high tunnels" shall not be
306 subject to any permitting or construction standards. For purposes of this
307 subsection, "hoop house" or "high tunnel" means a structure that is used
308 in agricultural applications to provide protected growing space for
309 horticultural crops or livestock and that customarily consists of metal,
310 wood, or polyvinyl chloride pipe framing with a covering for such
311 structure that may consist of polyurethane or polycarbonate material or
312 other covering, while such structure anchors to the ground by pipes or
313 metal rods driven into the soil, which may be individually set in
314 concrete, rather than connecting to a continuous concrete foundation.

315 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established the
316 Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Grant Program within the
317 Department of Agriculture. The purpose of such program shall be to
318 reimburse farmers in the state who incur crop loss attributable to
319 significant acute weather events. The department shall establish the
320 parameters of such grant program, including, but not limited to, (1)
321 eligibility criteria for such farmers, (2) prioritization rules for the use of
322 funds available to said department for such program, (3) maximum
323 reimbursement amounts under such program, (4) designation of
324 significant acute weather events that trigger eligibility for such
325 reimbursement under the program, and (5) the application process for
326 any such reimbursement request.

327 (b) Upon the development of the parameters of such grant program,

328 the department shall post information concerning such program,
329 including all such parameters, on the department's Internet web site.

330 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this
331 section:

332 (1) "Agriculture" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-1 of
333 the general statutes;

334 (2) "Agritourism" means any agriculture-related educational,
335 entertainment, historical, cultural or recreational activity, including, but
336 not limited to, you-pick operations, corn mazes, hay rides or farm
337 markets that are conducted on a farm which allows or invites members
338 of the general public to observe or participate in such activity;

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

343 (4) "Farm" means land that is composed of tracts, lots or parcels that
344 are devoted to agriculture;

345 (5) "Participant" means any individual, other than the agritourism
346 provider providing such activity, who observes or participates in an
347 agritourism activity; and

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

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

352 (B) The behavior or actions of wild animals not kept by or under the
353 control of an agritourism provider;

354 (C) The behavior or actions of livestock or domestic animals, other
355 than damage by dogs, as described in section 22-357 of the general

356 statutes;

357 (D) The ordinary dangers associated with land, structures, animals or
358 equipment ordinarily used in agriculture or agritourism activities;

359 (E) The possibility of personal injury, property damage or contracting
360 illness from proximity to, or physical contact with structures,
361 equipment, animals, animal feed, farm chemicals or animal waste; or

362 (F) The possibility that a participant may act in a negligent manner,
363 including by failing to follow instructions given by the agritourism
364 provider or by failing to exercise reasonable care while engaging in the
365 agritourism activity that may contribute to personal injury or property
366 damage to such participant or another participant.

367 (b) In any civil action, an agritourism provider shall be immune from
368 liability for any personal injury or property damage a participant
369 sustains during an agritourism activity if the participant incurs personal
370 injury or property damage as a result of a risk inherent in an agritourism
371 activity.

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

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

376 (2) The agritourism provider purposefully causes personal injury or
377 property damage to the participant; or

378 (3) The agritourism provider's actions or inactions constitute criminal
379 conduct and cause personal injury or property damage to the
380 participant.

381 Sec. 11. Section 26-192k of the general statutes is repealed and the
382 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

383 [(a)] The Department of Agriculture shall allow the relay of shellfish

384 from shellfish grounds classified as restricted relay to other grounds in
385 accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model
386 Ordinance, as amended from time to time, regarding restricted shellfish
387 relay. [The department shall allow the harvest of shellfish from shellfish
388 grounds classified as approved for market on the same day using the
389 same vessel, provided the harvester first harvests the approved market
390 product and lands the product to shore. A harvester shall not begin the
391 relay of shellfish from shellfish grounds classified as restricted relay
392 until all shellfish harvested first from approved market grounds, in
393 market quantities, have been removed from the vessel. Such harvester
394 shall not begin such relay until after the harvester has notified the
395 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection of such relay. The
396 harvester shall provide all information required by the Department of
397 Agriculture regarding shellfish relays to the Department of Energy and
398 Environmental Protection at the time of such notification. For the
399 remainder of the day, the harvester shall not harvest approved market
400 shellfish after beginning such relay.

401 (b) All tag identification information regarding shellfish harvest
402 locations shall be confidential, provided the harvester of the shellfish
403 marks the tag with a unique code corresponding to the shellfish harvest
404 location. The Department of Agriculture shall provide such harvester
405 and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with a
406 written code key detailing the harvest location and corresponding code
407 to be used by the harvester.]

408 Sec. 12. Section 26-212 of the general statutes is repealed and the
409 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

410 No person shall take or gather for commercial purposes oysters,
411 clams, mussels or other molluscan shellfish from any natural shellfish
412 bed in the state in any boat or vessel unless it is licensed and numbered
413 in the manner provided in this section. Any person desiring to use any
414 boat or vessel for such purpose may make written application to the
415 Commissioner of Agriculture, stating the name, owner, rig, general
416 description and tonnage of such boat or vessel and the place where it is

417 owned, and the commissioner shall issue to the owner of such boat or
418 vessel a license to take and gather for commercial purposes oysters,
419 clams, mussels or other molluscan shellfish from the natural shellfish
420 beds in the state for the term expiring on the next succeeding [twentieth
421 day of July] thirtieth day of June, unless sooner revoked, upon the
422 payment of thirty dollars; provided, before such license is granted, the
423 owner or master shall prove to the satisfaction of the commissioner that
424 such boat or vessel may legally be used on work on the public beds of
425 the state and that the dredges and other contrivances do not weigh more
426 than thirty pounds. Each boat or vessel so licensed shall, while at work
427 upon any of the natural shellfish beds of the state, display the number
428 of such license in black figures not less than one foot in length. No such
429 license may be transferred. The sale of any boat so licensed shall operate
430 as a forfeiture and revocation of the license, and the license certificate
431 shall be surrendered to the commissioner.

432 Sec. 13. Section 26-213 of the general statutes is repealed and the
433 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

434 No person shall take or gather for commercial purposes oysters,
435 clams, mussels or other molluscan shellfish from any natural shellfish
436 bed in the state and no person shall be permitted upon any boat,
437 licensed pursuant to the provisions of section 26-212, as amended by this
438 act, while the boat is being used for such taking or gathering until the
439 person has been licensed in the manner provided in this section. The
440 person shall apply in writing, to the Commissioner of Agriculture upon
441 blanks to be furnished by the commissioner, stating his name, residence
442 and post-office address and such other information as may be required
443 by said commissioner, and said commissioner, upon payment of a fee of
444 twenty dollars, shall issue to the person a license for such purpose. All
445 licenses so issued shall be revocable at any time by the commissioner
446 and shall expire on the [twentieth day of July] thirtieth day of June in
447 each year. The commissioner shall account to the Treasurer for all
448 moneys received for licenses under the provisions of this section. Any
449 person who violates any of the provisions of this section relating to

450 licensing shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

451 Sec. 14. Section 26-232 of the general statutes is repealed and the
452 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

453 (a) Any person who (1) between the [twentieth day of July] fifteenth
454 day of June and the twentieth day of September, gathers or takes any
455 oysters or shells from any natural oyster bed specified in section 26-193
456 other than any such bed in the Housatonic River, (2) between the
457 [twentieth day of July] fifteenth day of June and the twentieth day of
458 September in any year, gathers or takes any oysters or shells in the
459 Saugatuck River, or (3) between the [twentieth day of July] fifteenth day
460 of June and the twentieth day of October in any year, gathers or takes
461 any oysters or shells in the Housatonic River shall be fined not more
462 than two hundred fifty dollars; provided nothing in this section shall be
463 construed to prohibit the gathering or taking of shells or mussels by the
464 use of tongs in said Housatonic River below a line drawn from a stake
465 on the west bank of said river, at Quimber's Neck Point, so called, and
466 running thence in a northeasterly direction to a stake on the east side of
467 said river. Said stakes shall be located and maintained at said points by
468 the selectmen of the town of Stratford, and a certificate of such location
469 by said selectmen shall be recorded in the office of the town clerk of said
470 town of Stratford. Nothing in this chapter or in chapter 492 shall be
471 construed as prohibiting the excavation of material in deepening the
472 channels of navigable waters by work authorized by the United States
473 government.

474 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture, upon application of the
475 Stratford Shellfish Commission, may, at any time, close the season for
476 the taking of any shellfish in the Housatonic River for purposes of
477 conserving the resource.

478 Sec. 15. Section 26-207 of the general statutes is repealed and the
479 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

480 Any owner of shellfish grounds, franchise or franchises lying within

481 the exclusive jurisdiction of the state, on or before the first day of July,
482 annually, shall deliver to the Commissioner of Agriculture a statement
483 under oath of such franchise or franchises or grounds belonging to such
484 owner on the first day of June next preceding. Such statement shall
485 specify the lot or lots owned by such owner by numbers as appear upon
486 the last official map published by said commissioner, or, if granted since
487 the publication of such map, according to such number as may be
488 furnished by said commissioner, and the location and number of acres
489 of each lot. Blanks for such statement shall be prepared by said
490 commissioner and furnished to each owner, but failure to receive such
491 blanks shall not relieve any person from the obligation to furnish the
492 statement herein provided for. The commissioner may issue subpoenas
493 to compel the attendance of any person before him, with books of
494 account, documents and maps, and may administer oaths to and
495 examine any person for the purpose of ascertaining the amount and
496 value of such property. Any person who fails to respond to any such
497 subpoena or who, having responded, refuses to testify or who fails to
498 produce any such book or books of account, documents or maps, upon
499 application of said commissioner to the superior court for any judicial
500 district bordering on the waters of Long Island Sound, may be punished
501 for contempt. Said commissioner may exercise the authority of assessors
502 of towns and add ten per cent of the value of the property as a penalty
503 for failure to give in a list. Any person who discloses any information
504 obtained from any such witness or from the books or records of any such
505 owner provided for under the provisions of this section, otherwise than
506 in carrying out the provisions hereof, shall be fined not more than five
507 hundred dollars. Any owner of any shellfish grounds or franchise lying
508 within the exclusive jurisdiction of the state shall certify, in a format
509 determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture, that the owner
510 completed all required business and shellfish-related state tax filings for
511 the preceding year.

512 Sec. 16. Section 26-209 of the general statutes is repealed and the
513 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

514 Any person aggrieved by the action of the Commissioner of
515 Agriculture under section 26-207, as amended by this act, or 26-208 shall
516 have the same right of appeal to the Superior Court as is provided by
517 law for appeals to said court from boards of assessment appeals of
518 towns, except as otherwise provided. Each such appeal shall be taken to
519 the judicial district where the franchise or ground in question is situated
520 or to the judicial district where the owner appealing resides, and said
521 court shall have such powers therein as in appeals from boards of
522 assessment appeals of towns.

523 Sec. 17. Section 26-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the
524 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

525 (a) There shall not be used on any licensed boat any device operated
526 otherwise than by hand power, for hoisting or operating dredges or
527 other implements for gathering oysters, clams, mussels or other shellfish
528 or oyster shells. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no
529 person shall use any dredge or other contrivance weighing more than
530 [thirty] sixty pounds, exclusive of the net or bag, or with a capacity of
531 more than one and one-half bushels in taking up or dredging for oysters,
532 clams, mussels or other shellfish or oyster shells in any of the waters of
533 the state, except upon private designated grounds. Nothing in this
534 section shall be construed to prevent the use of power in taking up or
535 dredging for oysters, clams, mussels or other shellfish or shells on
536 private designated grounds by the owners thereof, or to prevent the use
537 of excavators for deepening the water in places where there are no
538 natural oyster or clam beds, or where such beds have not existed within
539 ten years, by digging or removing the material, permission to use
540 excavators being first given by the Commissioner of Agriculture, which
541 permission shall not be given until after a public notice of at least two
542 weeks of the time when and place where he will hear all parties desiring
543 to be heard upon such application, which notice shall be posted in the
544 office of the town clerk of the town where such grounds are located.

545 (b) A local shellfish commission established pursuant to section 26-
546 257a may allow limited and supervised use of a power dredge or other

547 contrivance with a capacity of not more than three bushels, for the
548 purpose of cultivation, enhancement or restoration of natural shellfish
549 beds located within the jurisdiction of said commission. The use of a
550 power dredge or other contrivance pursuant to this subsection shall not
551 be extended to the harvesting or removal of oysters. Such shellfish
552 commission shall administer such dredging pursuant to section 26-257a.

553 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established the
554 Manure Management Grant Program within the Department of
555 Agriculture. The purpose of such program shall be to support farmers
556 in adopting best practices to maintain manure management systems.
557 The department shall establish the parameters of such grant program,
558 including, but not limited to: (1) Eligibility criteria for such farmers, (2)
559 prioritization rules for the use of funds available to the department for
560 such program, (3) maximum reimbursement amounts under such
561 program, and (4) the application process for said grant program.

562 (b) Upon the development of the parameters of such grant program,
563 the department shall post information concerning such program,
564 including all such parameters, on the department's Internet web site.

565 Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The joint standing committee of the
566 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
567 environment may conduct an informational hearing for the purpose of
568 obtaining information on the funding and administration of the
569 following programs: (1) The CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program
570 described in section 10-215l of the general statutes, (2) the local food for
571 schools incentive program established in section 10-215m of the general
572 statutes, and (3) the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative
573 Agreement Program. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall testify at
574 any such informational hearing and answer questions of members of the
575 committee concerning such programs.

576 Sec. 20. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Department of Agriculture shall
577 administer a program for the purpose of providing grants for the
578 purchase and operation of shipping container farms to be used in

multiple locations to grow fresh vegetables for schools and local food pantries. Such program may be administered as part of any other department program for which schools and food pantries are eligible.

Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 22a-903c of the general statutes is amended by adding subdivisions (30) and (31) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (30) "Soil amendment" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-111aa.

(NEW) (31) "Fertilizer" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-111b.

Sec. 22. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 22a-903c of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(f) No person shall use, sell or offer for sale in this state [as] any fertilizer intended for land application or [a] soil amendment that contains any biosolids or wastewater sludge that contain PFAS.

(g) (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may enforce the provisions of this section pursuant to section 22a-6, except the Commissioner of Agriculture shall enforce subsection (f) of this section for fertilizers pursuant to chapter 427a and for soil amendments pursuant to chapter 427b. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection [may] shall coordinate with the Commissioners of Agriculture, Consumer Protection and Public Health in enforcing this section.

(2) Upon written request by [the department] either the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or the Department of Agriculture, as applicable, a certificate of compliance, or copies thereof, stating that a product, fertilizer or soil amendment is in compliance with the requirements of this section shall be furnished by the product's, fertilizer's or soil amendment's manufacturer or supplier to [the] such

609 department. When requested by the Commissioner of Energy and
 610 Environmental Protection or the Commissioner of Agriculture, as
 611 applicable, any person shall furnish to [the] such commissioner any
 612 information that the person may have or may reasonably obtain that is
 613 relevant to show compliance with the provisions of this section.

614 (3) Any such certificate of compliance shall be signed by an
 615 authorized official of the manufacturer or supplier. A certificate of
 616 compliance shall be kept on file by the manufacturer or supplier of the
 617 product, fertilizer or soil amendment. A manufacturer or supplier may
 618 make the certificate of compliance available on the manufacturer's or
 619 supplier's Internet web site or through an authorized representative of
 620 the manufacturer or supplier, including a multijurisdictional
 621 clearinghouse.

622 Sec. 23. Section 26-192l of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 623 *from passage*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-26f(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-111c
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-111bb
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	22-341(b)
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2026, and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025</i>	12-91
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	22a-54(e)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	26-192k
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	26-212

Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	26-213
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	26-232
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	26-207
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	26-209
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	26-215
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	22a-903c(a)(30) and (31)
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	22a-903c(f) and (g)
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section