



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 7446



Offered by:  
SEN. OSTEN, 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1497

File No. 671

Cal. No. 360

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

1 In line 11, strike "Any emergency or temporary appointments made"  
2 and insert "Any designation of a veterinarian" in lieu thereof

3 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
4 internal references accordingly:

5 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026, and applicable to income and*  
6 *taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this  
7 section:

8 (1) "Eligible farmer" means a taxpayer in this state whose: (A) Federal  
9 gross income from farming for the income or taxable year is at least two-  
10 thirds of excess federal gross income, or (B) Internal Revenue Service  
11 Schedule F reports a minimum of one hundred thousand dollars in sales  
12 of agricultural products produced in this state;

13 (2) "Excess federal gross income" means the amount of federal gross

14 income from all sources for the income or taxable year in excess of thirty  
15 thousand dollars;

16 (3) "Agricultural production" has the same meaning as provided in  
17 subdivision (63) of section 12-412 of the general statutes and includes  
18 the production of: (A) Wine from a farm winery licensed pursuant to  
19 section 30-16 of the general statutes, (B) Christmas trees, whether dug  
20 for transplanting or cut from the stump, and (C) apple juice and cider  
21 by a farmer who holds both an apple juice and cider manufacturing  
22 permit and a farmer tax exemption permit issued pursuant to section  
23 12-412 of the general statutes;

24 (4) "Farm investment property" means machinery and equipment  
25 that are acquired by purchase by an eligible farmer on or after January  
26 1, 2026, and buildings and structural components of buildings that are  
27 acquired, constructed, reconstructed or erected by an eligible farmer  
28 and placed in service on or after January 1, 2026, and (A) are situated in  
29 this state, (B) have a class life of more than four years, as described in  
30 Section 168(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
31 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended  
32 from time to time, (C) are acquired by an eligible farmer from a person  
33 other than a related person, (D) are not acquired to be leased, and are  
34 not leased, to another person or persons during the twelve full months  
35 following their acquisition or placement in service, and (E) will be held  
36 and used in this state by the eligible farmer in the ordinary course of  
37 agricultural production for not less than five full years following the  
38 date of acquisition of such machinery and equipment or the date of  
39 placement in service of such buildings;

40 (5) "Related person" means (A) a corporation, limited liability  
41 company, partnership, association or trust controlled by the taxpayer,  
42 (B) an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,  
43 association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, (C) a corporation,  
44 limited liability company, partnership, association or trust controlled by  
45 an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,  
46 association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, or (D) a member of

47 the same controlled group as the taxpayer; and

48 (6) "Control" means (A) with respect to a corporation, ownership,  
49 directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty per cent or more of the  
50 total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of such  
51 corporation entitled to vote, or (B) with respect to a trust, ownership,  
52 directly or indirectly, of fifty per cent or more of the beneficial interest  
53 in the principal or income of such trust. The ownership (i) of stock in a  
54 corporation, (ii) of a capital or profits interest in a partnership or  
55 association, or (iii) of a beneficial interest in a trust shall be determined  
56 in accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock  
57 provided in Section 267(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any  
58 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,  
59 as amended from time to time, other than paragraph (3) of said section.

60 (b) A taxpayer, in determining income eligibility for purposes of this  
61 section, may use for any income or taxable year the average of the  
62 taxpayer's federal gross income from farming for such income or taxable  
63 year and the two consecutive income or taxable years immediately  
64 preceding.

65 (c) (1) There shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed under  
66 chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes, other than the liability  
67 imposed by section 12-707 of the general statutes, of twenty per cent of  
68 the amount paid or incurred during an income or a taxable year for farm  
69 investment property by a taxpayer that is an eligible farmer.

70 (2) If the taxpayer is an S corporation or an entity treated as a  
71 partnership for federal income tax purposes, the credit may be claimed  
72 by the taxpayer's shareholders or partners. If the taxpayer is a single  
73 member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity  
74 separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by such limited  
75 liability company's owner, provided such owner is subject to the tax  
76 imposed under chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes.

77 (3) If the amount of the credit allowed pursuant to this section

78 exceeds the taxpayer's liability for the tax imposed under chapter 208 or  
79 229 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall  
80 treat such excess as an overpayment and, except as provided in section  
81 12-739 or 12-742 of the general statutes, shall refund the amount of such  
82 excess, without interest, to such taxpayer.

83 (4) No taxpayer claiming the credit under this section with respect to  
84 the acquisition of farm investment property may claim a credit against  
85 any tax under any other provision of the general statutes with respect to  
86 the same acquisition.

87 (d) If the farm investment property for which a taxpayer has claimed  
88 the credit allowed under this section is not held and used in this state in  
89 the ordinary course of agricultural production in this state for three full  
90 years following its acquisition, the taxpayer shall recapture one  
91 hundred per cent of the amount of the credit allowed under this section  
92 on its tax return required to be filed for the income or taxable year  
93 immediately succeeding the income or taxable year during which such  
94 three-year period expires. If the farm investment property for which a  
95 taxpayer has claimed the credit allowed under this section is not held  
96 and used in this state in the ordinary course of agricultural production  
97 in this state for five full years following its acquisition, the taxpayer shall  
98 recapture fifty per cent of the amount of the credit allowed under this  
99 section on its tax return required to be filed for the income or taxable  
100 year immediately succeeding the income or taxable year during which  
101 such five-year period expires. The provisions of this subsection shall not  
102 apply if the property that is the subject of the credit under this section is  
103 replaced. If any amount of credit required to be recaptured has not been  
104 paid to the commissioner on or before the first day of the fourth month  
105 next succeeding the end of the income year immediately succeeding the  
106 income year during which the three-year or five-year period, as the case  
107 may be, expires, such amount shall bear interest at the rate of one per  
108 cent per month or fraction thereof from such date to the date of  
109 payment.

110 Sec. 502. Section 12-91 of the general statutes is repealed and the

111 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025, and*  
112 *applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025*):

113 (a) All farm machinery, except motor vehicles, as defined in section  
114 14-1, to the assessed value of [one] five hundred thousand dollars, any  
115 horse or pony that is actually and exclusively used in farming, as  
116 defined in section 1-1, when owned and kept in this state by, or when  
117 held in trust for, any farmer or group of farmers operating as a unit, a  
118 partnership or a corporation, a majority of the stock of which  
119 corporation is held by members of a family actively engaged in farm  
120 operations, shall be exempt from local property taxation; provided each  
121 such farmer, whether operating individually or as one of a group,  
122 partnership or corporation, shall qualify for such exemption in  
123 accordance with the standards set forth in subsection (d) of this section  
124 for the assessment year for which such exemption is sought. Only one  
125 such exemption shall be allowed to each such farmer, group of farmers,  
126 partnership or corporation. Subdivision (38) of section 12-81 shall not  
127 apply to any person, group, partnership or corporation receiving the  
128 exemption provided for in this subsection.

129 (b) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may  
130 provide an additional exemption from property tax for such machinery  
131 to the extent of an additional assessed value of two hundred fifty  
132 thousand dollars. Any such exemption shall be subject to the same  
133 limitations as the exemption provided under subsection (a) of this  
134 section and the application and qualification process provided in  
135 subsection (d) of this section.

136 (c) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may  
137 provide an exemption from property tax for any building used actually  
138 and exclusively in farming, as defined in section 1-1, or for any building  
139 used to provide housing for seasonal employees of such farmer. The  
140 municipality shall establish the amount of such exemption from the  
141 assessed value, provided such amount may not exceed five hundred  
142 thousand dollars with respect to each eligible building. Such exemption  
143 shall not apply to the residence of such farmer and shall be subject to

144 the application and qualification process provided in subsection (d) of  
145 this section.

146 (d) Annually, on or before the first day of November or the extended  
147 filing date granted by the assessor pursuant to section 12-42, each such  
148 individual farmer, group of farmers, partnership or corporation shall  
149 make written application for the exemption provided for in subsection  
150 (a) of this section to the assessor or board of assessors in the town in  
151 which such farm is located, including therewith a notarized affidavit  
152 certifying that such farmer, individually or as part of a group,  
153 partnership or corporation, derived at least fifteen thousand dollars in  
154 gross sales from such farming operation, or incurred at least fifteen  
155 thousand dollars in expenses related to such farming operation, with  
156 respect to the most recently completed taxable year of such farmer prior  
157 to the commencement of the assessment year for which such application  
158 is made, on forms to be prescribed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.  
159 Failure to file such application in said manner and form on or before the  
160 first day of November shall be considered a waiver of the right to such  
161 exemption for the assessment year. Any person aggrieved by any action  
162 of the assessors shall have the same rights and remedies for appeal and  
163 relief as are provided in the general statutes for taxpayers claiming to be  
164 aggrieved by the doings of the assessors or board of assessment appeals.

165 Sec. 503. Subsection (e) of section 22a-54 of the general statutes is  
166 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
167 *passage*):

168 (e) The following provisions shall govern the certification of aircraft  
169 applicators:

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

173 (2) Upon application of any person qualified to fly an aircraft, the  
174 commissioner may issue a certificate for the application of pesticides or

175 fertilizers by aircraft. Application for said certificate shall be on forms  
176 provided by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty  
177 dollars.

178 (3) The commissioner may issue a permit to the owner of any crop or  
179 land, or to a representative designated by such owner, for application of  
180 pesticides or fertilizers by a certified aircraft applicator. Application for  
181 said permit shall be on forms provided by the commissioner and shall  
182 be accompanied by a fee established by the commissioner by regulations  
183 adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 provided the  
184 fee shall be not less than twenty dollars. The commissioner may waive  
185 the application form and fee requirements imposed pursuant to  
186 regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 in  
187 circumstances where application of broad spectrum chemical pesticides  
188 from the air is necessary to control specific vectors of human disease  
189 which pose an imminent threat to public health. The commissioner may  
190 require inspection of the crop or area and its immediate environs and  
191 approval as follows:

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

194 (B) For rodent control, woodland spraying and mosquito control  
195 spraying, by the commissioner;

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

198 (4) The commissioner shall designate the kind and amount of  
199 pesticides permitted for use by aircraft. Permits for aircraft spraying in  
200 congested areas shall be issued only with the approval of the director of  
201 health of the municipality in which the operation is to be conducted  
202 except in circumstances where the commissioner determines that the  
203 application of broad spectrum chemical pesticides from the air is  
204 necessary to control specific vectors of human disease which pose an  
205 imminent threat to public health.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

224 (6) No person may apply pesticides or fungicides by aircraft or by  
225 misting-type devices to shade tobacco crops within three hundred feet  
226 of an inhabited residential building for which a certificate of occupancy  
227 was issued prior to January 1, 1997, without the written permission of  
228 the owner of such building, except spray applications may be  
229 administered within the confines of the netting. This subdivision shall  
230 not apply to an application of pesticides or fungicides to land which was  
231 poled for the cultivation of shade tobacco between January 1, 1994, and  
232 January 1, 1997.

233 Sec. 504. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) The State Building  
234 Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall, jointly, with



235 the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, include  
236 in the amendments to the State Building Code next adopted after  
237 October 1, 2025, provisions that allow a residential building that consists  
238 of not more than six stories and contains less than twenty-five dwelling  
239 units to install and maintain a passenger elevator that is of sufficient size  
240 to accommodate two persons, one of whom uses a wheelchair.

241 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the State Building Code, the  
242 agricultural use of structures commonly referred to as "hoop houses" or  
243 "high tunnels" shall not be subject to any permitting or construction  
244 standards relating to the hurricane proofing of permanent or temporary  
245 structures.

246 Sec. 505. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established the  
247 Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Grant Program within the  
248 Department of Agriculture. The purpose of such program shall be to  
249 reimburse farmers in the state who incur crop loss attributable to  
250 significant acute weather events. The department shall establish the  
251 parameters of such grant program, including, but not limited to, (1)  
252 eligibility criteria for such farmers, (2) prioritization rules for the use of  
253 funds available to said department for such program, (3) maximum  
254 reimbursement amounts under such program, (4) designation of  
255 significant acute weather events that trigger eligibility for such  
256 reimbursement under the program, and (5) the application process for  
257 any such reimbursement request. Any application received by the  
258 department pursuant to such program shall be acted upon by the  
259 department not later than sixty days after receipt.

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

263 Sec. 506. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described  
264 in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have  
265 the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the  
266 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in

267 the aggregate ten million dollars.

268 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount  
269 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department  
270 of Agriculture for the purpose of providing reimbursement to farmers  
271 in accordance with the Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Program  
272 established in section 505 of this act.

273 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise  
274 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the  
275 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all  
276 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this  
277 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived  
278 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in  
279 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to  
280 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
281 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
282 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
283 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be  
284 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
285 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed  
286 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
287 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its  
288 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall  
289 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state  
290 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and  
291 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as  
292 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,  
293 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
294 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay  
295 such principal and interest as the same become due.

296 Sec. 507. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this  
297 section:

298 (1) "Agriculture" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-1 of

299 the general statutes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

325 (E) The possibility of personal injury, property damage or contracting  
326 illness from proximity to, or physical contact with structures,

327 equipment, animals, animal feed, farm chemicals or animal waste; or

328 (F) The possibility that a participant may act in a negligent manner,  
329 including by failing to follow instructions given by the agritourism  
330 provider or by failing to exercise reasonable care while engaging in the  
331 agritourism activity that may contribute to personal injury or property  
332 damage to such participant or another participant.

333 (b) In any civil action, an agritourism provider shall be immune from  
334 liability for any personal injury or property damage a participant  
335 sustains during an agritourism activity if the participant incurs personal  
336 injury or property damage as a result of a risk inherent in an agritourism  
337 activity.

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

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

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

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

347 Sec. 508. Section 26-192k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
348 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

349 [(a)] The Department of Agriculture shall allow the relay of shellfish  
350 from shellfish grounds classified as restricted relay to other grounds in  
351 accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model  
352 Ordinance, as amended from time to time, regarding restricted shellfish  
353 relay. [The department shall allow the harvest of shellfish from shellfish  
354 grounds classified as approved for market on the same day using the  
355 same vessel, provided the harvester first harvests the approved market

356 product and lands the product to shore. A harvester shall not begin the  
357 relay of shellfish from shellfish grounds classified as restricted relay  
358 until all shellfish harvested first from approved market grounds, in  
359 market quantities, have been removed from the vessel. Such harvester  
360 shall not begin such relay until after the harvester has notified the  
361 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection of such relay. The  
362 harvester shall provide all information required by the Department of  
363 Agriculture regarding shellfish relays to the Department of Energy and  
364 Environmental Protection at the time of such notification. For the  
365 remainder of the day, the harvester shall not harvest approved market  
366 shellfish after beginning such relay.

367 (b) All tag identification information regarding shellfish harvest  
368 locations shall be confidential, provided the harvester of the shellfish  
369 marks the tag with a unique code corresponding to the shellfish harvest  
370 location. The Department of Agriculture shall provide such harvester  
371 and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with a  
372 written code key detailing the harvest location and corresponding code  
373 to be used by the harvester.]

374 Sec. 509. Section 26-212 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
375 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

376 No person shall take or gather for commercial purposes oysters,  
377 clams, mussels or other molluscan shellfish from any natural shellfish  
378 bed in the state in any boat or vessel unless it is licensed and numbered  
379 in the manner provided in this section. Any person desiring to use any  
380 boat or vessel for such purpose may make written application to the  
381 Commissioner of Agriculture, stating the name, owner, rig, general  
382 description and tonnage of such boat or vessel and the place where it is  
383 owned, and the commissioner shall issue to the owner of such boat or  
384 vessel a license to take and gather for commercial purposes oysters,  
385 clams, mussels or other molluscan shellfish from the natural shellfish  
386 beds in the state for the term expiring on the next succeeding [twentieth  
387 day of July] thirtieth day of June, unless sooner revoked, upon the  
388 payment of thirty dollars; provided, before such license is granted, the

owner or master shall prove to the satisfaction of the commissioner that such boat or vessel may legally be used on work on the public beds of the state and that the dredges and other contrivances do not weigh more than thirty pounds. Each boat or vessel so licensed shall, while at work upon any of the natural shellfish beds of the state, display the number of such license in black figures not less than one foot in length. No such license may be transferred. The sale of any boat so licensed shall operate as a forfeiture and revocation of the license, and the license certificate shall be surrendered to the commissioner.

Sec. 510. Section 26-213 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

Sec. 511. Section 26-232 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any person who (1) between the [twentieth day of July] fifteenth day of June and the twentieth day of September, gathers or takes any

421 oysters or shells from any natural oyster bed specified in section 26-193  
422 other than any such bed in the Housatonic River, (2) between the  
423 [twentieth day of July] fifteenth day of June and the twentieth day of  
424 September in any year, gathers or takes any oysters or shells in the  
425 Saugatuck River, or (3) between the [twentieth day of July] fifteenth day  
426 of June and the twentieth day of October in any year, gathers or takes  
427 any oysters or shells in the Housatonic River shall be fined not more  
428 than two hundred fifty dollars; provided nothing in this section shall be  
429 construed to prohibit the gathering or taking of shells or mussels by the  
430 use of tongs in said Housatonic River below a line drawn from a stake  
431 on the west bank of said river, at Quimber's Neck Point, so called, and  
432 running thence in a northeasterly direction to a stake on the east side of  
433 said river. Said stakes shall be located and maintained at said points by  
434 the selectmen of the town of Stratford, and a certificate of such location  
435 by said selectmen shall be recorded in the office of the town clerk of said  
436 town of Stratford. Nothing in this chapter or in chapter 492 shall be  
437 construed as prohibiting the excavation of material in deepening the  
438 channels of navigable waters by work authorized by the United States  
439 government.

440 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture, upon application of the  
441 Stratford Shellfish Commission, may, at any time, close the season for  
442 the taking of any shellfish in the Housatonic River for purposes of  
443 conserving the resource.

444 Sec. 512. Section 26-207 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
445 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

446 Any owner of shellfish grounds, franchise or franchises lying within  
447 the exclusive jurisdiction of the state, on or before the first day of July,  
448 annually, shall deliver to the Commissioner of Agriculture a statement  
449 under oath of such franchise or franchises or grounds belonging to such  
450 owner on the first day of June next preceding. Such statement shall  
451 specify the lot or lots owned by such owner by numbers as appear upon  
452 the last official map published by said commissioner, or, if granted since  
453 the publication of such map, according to such number as may be

454 furnished by said commissioner, and the location and number of acres  
455 of each lot. Blanks for such statement shall be prepared by said  
456 commissioner and furnished to each owner, but failure to receive such  
457 blanks shall not relieve any person from the obligation to furnish the  
458 statement herein provided for. The commissioner may issue subpoenas  
459 to compel the attendance of any person before him, with books of  
460 account, documents and maps, and may administer oaths to and  
461 examine any person for the purpose of ascertaining the amount and  
462 value of such property. Any person who fails to respond to any such  
463 subpoena or who, having responded, refuses to testify or who fails to  
464 produce any such book or books of account, documents or maps, upon  
465 application of said commissioner to the superior court for any judicial  
466 district bordering on the waters of Long Island Sound, may be punished  
467 for contempt. Said commissioner may exercise the authority of assessors  
468 of towns and add ten per cent of the value of the property as a penalty  
469 for failure to give in a list. Any person who discloses any information  
470 obtained from any such witness or from the books or records of any such  
471 owner provided for under the provisions of this section, otherwise than  
472 in carrying out the provisions hereof, shall be fined not more than five  
473 hundred dollars. Any owner of any shellfish grounds or franchise lying  
474 within the exclusive jurisdiction of the state shall certify, in a format  
475 determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture, that the owner  
476 completed all required business and shellfish-related state tax filings for  
477 the preceding year.

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

480 Any person aggrieved by the action of the Commissioner of  
481 Agriculture under section 26-207, as amended by this act, or 26-208 shall  
482 have the same right of appeal to the Superior Court as is provided by  
483 law for appeals to said court from boards of assessment appeals of  
484 towns, except as otherwise provided. Each such appeal shall be taken to  
485 the judicial district where the franchise or ground in question is situated  
486 or to the judicial district where the owner appealing resides, and said



487 court shall have such powers therein as in appeals from boards of  
488 assessment appeals of towns.

489 Sec. 514. Section 26-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
490 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

491 (a) There shall not be used on any licensed boat any device operated  
492 otherwise than by hand power, for hoisting or operating dredges or  
493 other implements for gathering oysters, clams, mussels or other shellfish  
494 or oyster shells. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no  
495 person shall use any dredge or other contrivance weighing more than  
496 [thirty] sixty pounds, exclusive of the net or bag, or with a capacity of  
497 more than one and one-half bushels in taking up or dredging for oysters,  
498 clams, mussels or other shellfish or oyster shells in any of the waters of  
499 the state, except upon private designated grounds. Nothing in this  
500 section shall be construed to prevent the use of power in taking up or  
501 dredging for oysters, clams, mussels or other shellfish or shells on  
502 private designated grounds by the owners thereof, or to prevent the use  
503 of excavators for deepening the water in places where there are no  
504 natural oyster or clam beds, or where such beds have not existed within  
505 ten years, by digging or removing the material, permission to use  
506 excavators being first given by the Commissioner of Agriculture, which  
507 permission shall not be given until after a public notice of at least two  
508 weeks of the time when and place where he will hear all parties desiring  
509 to be heard upon such application, which notice shall be posted in the  
510 office of the town clerk of the town where such grounds are located.

511 (b) A local shellfish commission established pursuant to section 26-  
512 257a may allow limited and supervised use of a power dredge or other  
513 contrivance with a capacity of not more than three bushels, for the  
514 purpose of cultivation, enhancement or restoration of natural shellfish  
515 beds located within the jurisdiction of said commission. The use of a  
516 power dredge or other contrivance pursuant to this subsection shall not  
517 be extended to the harvesting or removal of oysters. Such shellfish  
518 commission shall administer such dredging pursuant to section 26-257a.

519       Sec. 515. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established the  
520       Manure Management Grant Program within the Department of  
521       Agriculture. The purpose of such program shall be to support farmers  
522       in adopting best practices to maintain manure management systems.  
523       The department shall establish the parameters of such grant program,  
524       including, but not limited to: (1) Eligibility criteria for such farmers, (2)  
525       prioritization rules for the use of funds available to the department for  
526       such program, (3) maximum reimbursement amounts under such  
527       program, and (4) the application process for said grant program.

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

531       Sec. 516. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in  
532       subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the  
533       power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state  
534       in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the  
535       aggregate five million dollars.

536       (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount  
537       stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department  
538       of Agriculture for the purpose of the Manure Management Grant  
539       Program established in section 515 of this act.

540       (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise  
541       of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the  
542       provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all  
543       bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this  
544       section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived  
545       from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in  
546       accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to  
547       time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
548       exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
549       in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
550       Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be

551 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
552 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed  
553 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
554 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its  
555 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall  
556 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state  
557 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and  
558 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as  
559 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,  
560 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
561 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay  
562 such principal and interest as the same become due.

563       Sec. 517. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of one million dollars is  
564 appropriated to the Department of Agriculture from the General Fund,  
565 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for administration of the CT  
566 Grown for CT Kids Grant Program described in section 10-215l of the  
567 general statutes.

568       Sec. 518. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of two million dollars is  
569 appropriated to the Department of Agriculture from the General Fund,  
570 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for the purpose of providing  
571 grants for the purchase and operation of shipping container farms to be  
572 used in multiple locations to grow fresh vegetables for schools and local  
573 food pantries. Any such grant may be issued pursuant to any program  
574 of the department for which schools and food pantries are eligible.

575       Sec. 519. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of five million six hundred  
576 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture from  
577 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for  
578 administration of the local food for schools incentive program  
579 established in section 10-215m of the general statutes.

580       Sec. 520. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of three million seven  
581 hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of  
582 Agriculture from the General Fund, for the fiscal year June 30, 2026, for

583 administration of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative  
584 Agreement Program.

585 Sec. 521. Section 26-192l of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
586 *from passage*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>January 1, 2026, and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 502	<i>October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025</i>	12-91
Sec. 503	<i>from passage</i>	22a-54(e)
Sec. 504	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 505	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 506	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 507	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 508	<i>from passage</i>	26-192k
Sec. 509	<i>from passage</i>	26-212
Sec. 510	<i>from passage</i>	26-213
Sec. 511	<i>from passage</i>	26-232
Sec. 512	<i>from passage</i>	26-207
Sec. 513	<i>from passage</i>	26-209
Sec. 514	<i>from passage</i>	26-215
Sec. 515	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 516	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 517	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 518	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 519	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 520	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 521	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section