



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 9860



Offered by:

SEN. LOPES, 6<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. HARDING, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. OSTEN, 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. COHEN, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. PARKER, 101<sup>st</sup> Dist.

REP. CALLAHAN, 108<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. CANDELORA V., 86<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. GRESKO, 121<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
REP. DUBITSKY, 47<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. FOSTER, 57<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 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4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  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 Section 22-111c of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 who holds a sales  
81 tax exemption for a farmer's permit;

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

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

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

106 agricultural production for not less than five full years following the  
107 date of acquisition of such machinery and equipment or the date of  
108 placement in service of such buildings;

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

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

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

134 (c) (1) There shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed under  
135 chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes, other than the liability  
136 imposed by section 12-707 of the general statutes, of twenty per cent of  
137 the amount paid or incurred during an income or a taxable year for farm

138 investment property by a taxpayer that is an eligible farmer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

203 section and the application and qualification process provided in  
204 subsection (d) of this section.

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

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

234 Sec. 7. Subsection (e) of section 22a-54 of the general statutes is  
235 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*



236 *passage*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

265 (C) For control of vectors of human disease, by the Commissioner of

266 Public Health.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

293 (6) No person may apply pesticides or fungicides by aircraft or by  
294 misting-type devices to shade tobacco crops within three hundred feet

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

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

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

326 (b) Upon the development of the parameters of such grant program,  
327 the department shall post information concerning such program,

328 including all such parameters, on the department's Internet web site.

329       Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described  
330 in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have  
331 the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the  
332 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in  
333 the aggregate ten million dollars.

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

339       (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise  
340 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the  
341 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all  
342 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this  
343 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived  
344 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in  
345 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to  
346 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
347 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
348 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
349 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be  
350 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
351 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed  
352 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
353 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its  
354 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall  
355 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state  
356 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and  
357 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as  
358 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,  
359 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
360 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay

361 such principal and interest as the same become due.

362 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this  
363 section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

394 (F) The possibility that a participant may act in a negligent manner,  
395 including by failing to follow instructions given by the agritourism  
396 provider or by failing to exercise reasonable care while engaging in the  
397 agritourism activity that may contribute to personal injury or property  
398 damage to such participant or another participant.

399 (b) In any civil action, an agritourism provider shall be immune from  
400 liability for any personal injury or property damage a participant  
401 sustains during an agritourism activity if the participant incurs personal  
402 injury or property damage as a result of a risk inherent in an agritourism  
403 activity.

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

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

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

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

413 Sec. 12. Section 26-192k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
414 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

415 [(a)] The Department of Agriculture shall allow the relay of shellfish  
416 from shellfish grounds classified as restricted relay to other grounds in  
417 accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model

Ordinance, as amended from time to time, regarding restricted shellfish relay. [The department shall allow the harvest of shellfish from shellfish grounds classified as approved for market on the same day using the same vessel, provided the harvester first harvests the approved market product and lands the product to shore. A harvester shall not begin the relay of shellfish from shellfish grounds classified as restricted relay until all shellfish harvested first from approved market grounds, in market quantities, have been removed from the vessel. Such harvester shall not begin such relay until after the harvester has notified the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection of such relay. The harvester shall provide all information required by the Department of Agriculture regarding shellfish relays to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at the time of such notification. For the remainder of the day, the harvester shall not harvest approved market shellfish after beginning such relay.

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

Sec. 13. Section 26-212 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 in any boat or vessel unless it is licensed and numbered in the manner provided in this section. Any person desiring to use any boat or vessel for such purpose may make written application to the Commissioner of Agriculture, stating the name, owner, rig, general description and tonnage of such boat or vessel and the place where it is owned, and the commissioner shall issue to the owner of such boat or vessel a license to take and gather for commercial purposes oysters,

451 clams, mussels or other molluscan shellfish from the natural shellfish  
452 beds in the state for the term expiring on the next succeeding [twentieth  
453 day of July] thirtieth day of June, unless sooner revoked, upon the  
454 payment of thirty dollars; provided, before such license is granted, the  
455 owner or master shall prove to the satisfaction of the commissioner that  
456 such boat or vessel may legally be used on work on the public beds of  
457 the state and that the dredges and other contrivances do not weigh more  
458 than thirty pounds. Each boat or vessel so licensed shall, while at work  
459 upon any of the natural shellfish beds of the state, display the number  
460 of such license in black figures not less than one foot in length. No such  
461 license may be transferred. The sale of any boat so licensed shall operate  
462 as a forfeiture and revocation of the license, and the license certificate  
463 shall be surrendered to the commissioner.

464 Sec. 14. Section 26-213 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
465 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

483 Sec. 15. Section 26-232 of the general statutes is repealed and the



484 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

485 (a) Any person who (1) between the [twentieth day of July] fifteenth  
486 day of June and the twentieth day of September, gathers or takes any  
487 oysters or shells from any natural oyster bed specified in section 26-193  
488 other than any such bed in the Housatonic River, (2) between the  
489 [twentieth day of July] fifteenth day of June and the twentieth day of  
490 September in any year, gathers or takes any oysters or shells in the  
491 Saugatuck River, or (3) between the [twentieth day of July] fifteenth day  
492 of June and the twentieth day of October in any year, gathers or takes  
493 any oysters or shells in the Housatonic River shall be fined not more  
494 than two hundred fifty dollars; provided nothing in this section shall be  
495 construed to prohibit the gathering or taking of shells or mussels by the  
496 use of tongs in said Housatonic River below a line drawn from a stake  
497 on the west bank of said river, at Quimber's Neck Point, so called, and  
498 running thence in a northeasterly direction to a stake on the east side of  
499 said river. Said stakes shall be located and maintained at said points by  
500 the selectmen of the town of Stratford, and a certificate of such location  
501 by said selectmen shall be recorded in the office of the town clerk of said  
502 town of Stratford. Nothing in this chapter or in chapter 492 shall be  
503 construed as prohibiting the excavation of material in deepening the  
504 channels of navigable waters by work authorized by the United States  
505 government.

506 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture, upon application of the  
507 Stratford Shellfish Commission, may, at any time, close the season for  
508 the taking of any shellfish in the Housatonic River for purposes of  
509 conserving the resource.

510 Sec. 16. Section 26-207 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
511 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

512 Any owner of shellfish grounds, franchise or franchises lying within  
513 the exclusive jurisdiction of the state, on or before the first day of July,  
514 annually, shall deliver to the Commissioner of Agriculture a statement  
515 under oath of such franchise or franchises or grounds belonging to such

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

Sec. 17. Section 26-209 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Any person aggrieved by the action of the Commissioner of Agriculture under section 26-207, as amended by this act, or 26-208 shall have the same right of appeal to the Superior Court as is provided by

549 law for appeals to said court from boards of assessment appeals of  
550 towns, except as otherwise provided. Each such appeal shall be taken to  
551 the judicial district where the franchise or ground in question is situated  
552 or to the judicial district where the owner appealing resides, and said  
553 court shall have such powers therein as in appeals from boards of  
554 assessment appeals of towns.

555 Sec. 18. Section 26-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
556 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

557 (a) There shall not be used on any licensed boat any device operated  
558 otherwise than by hand power, for hoisting or operating dredges or  
559 other implements for gathering oysters, clams, mussels or other shellfish  
560 or oyster shells. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no  
561 person shall use any dredge or other contrivance weighing more than  
562 [thirty] sixty pounds, exclusive of the net or bag, or with a capacity of  
563 more than one and one-half bushels in taking up or dredging for oysters,  
564 clams, mussels or other shellfish or oyster shells in any of the waters of  
565 the state, except upon private designated grounds. Nothing in this  
566 section shall be construed to prevent the use of power in taking up or  
567 dredging for oysters, clams, mussels or other shellfish or shells on  
568 private designated grounds by the owners thereof, or to prevent the use  
569 of excavators for deepening the water in places where there are no  
570 natural oyster or clam beds, or where such beds have not existed within  
571 ten years, by digging or removing the material, permission to use  
572 excavators being first given by the Commissioner of Agriculture, which  
573 permission shall not be given until after a public notice of at least two  
574 weeks of the time when and place where he will hear all parties desiring  
575 to be heard upon such application, which notice shall be posted in the  
576 office of the town clerk of the town where such grounds are located.

577 (b) A local shellfish commission established pursuant to section 26-  
578 257a may allow limited and supervised use of a power dredge or other  
579 contrivance with a capacity of not more than three bushels, for the  
580 purpose of cultivation, enhancement or restoration of natural shellfish  
581 beds located within the jurisdiction of said commission. The use of a

582 power dredge or other contrivance pursuant to this subsection shall not  
583 be extended to the harvesting or removal of oysters. Such shellfish  
584 commission shall administer such dredging pursuant to section 26-257a.

585 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established the  
586 Manure Management Grant Program within the Department of  
587 Agriculture. The purpose of such program shall be to support farmers  
588 in adopting best practices to maintain manure management systems.  
589 The department shall establish the parameters of such grant program,  
590 including, but not limited to: (1) Eligibility criteria for such farmers, (2)  
591 prioritization rules for the use of funds available to the department for  
592 such program, (3) maximum reimbursement amounts under such  
593 program, and (4) the application process for said grant program.

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

597 Sec. 20. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in  
598 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the  
599 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state  
600 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the  
601 aggregate five million dollars.

602 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount  
603 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department  
604 of Agriculture for the purpose of the Manure Management Grant  
605 Program established in section 19 of this act.

606 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise  
607 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the  
608 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all  
609 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this  
610 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived  
611 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in  
612 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to

613 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
614 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
615 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
616 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be  
617 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
618 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed  
619 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
620 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its  
621 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall  
622 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state  
623 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and  
624 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as  
625 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,  
626 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
627 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay  
628 such principal and interest as the same become due.

629       Sec. 21. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of one million dollars is  
630 appropriated to the Department of Agriculture from the General Fund,  
631 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for administration of the CT  
632 Grown for CT Kids Grant Program described in section 10-215l of the  
633 general statutes.

634       Sec. 22. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of two million dollars is  
635 appropriated to the Department of Agriculture from the General Fund,  
636 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for the purpose of providing  
637 grants for the purchase and operation of shipping container farms to be  
638 used in multiple locations to grow fresh vegetables for schools and local  
639 food pantries. Any such grant may be issued pursuant to any program  
640 of the department for which schools and food pantries are eligible.

641       Sec. 23. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of five million six hundred  
642 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture from  
643 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for  
644 administration of the local food for schools incentive program  
645 established in section 10-215m of the general statutes.

646 Sec. 24. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of three million seven hundred  
647 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture from  
648 the General Fund, for the fiscal year June 30, 2026, for administration of  
649 the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program.

650 Sec. 25. Subsection (a) of section 22a-903c of the general statutes is  
651 amended by adding subdivisions (30) and (31) as follows (*Effective from*  
652 *passage*):

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

655 (NEW) (31) "Fertilizer" has the same meaning as provided in section  
656 22-111b.

657 Sec. 26. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 22a-903c of the general  
658 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
659 (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

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

676 fertilizer's or soil amendment's manufacturer or supplier to [the] such  
 677 department. When requested by the Commissioner of Energy and  
 678 Environmental Protection or the Commissioner of Agriculture, as  
 679 applicable, any person shall furnish to [the] such commissioner any  
 680 information that the person may have or may reasonably obtain that is  
 681 relevant to show compliance with the provisions of this section.

682 (3) Any such certificate of compliance shall be signed by an  
 683 authorized official of the manufacturer or supplier. A certificate of  
 684 compliance shall be kept on file by the manufacturer or supplier of the  
 685 product, fertilizer or soil amendment. A manufacturer or supplier may  
 686 make the certificate of compliance available on the manufacturer's or  
 687 supplier's Internet web site or through an authorized representative of  
 688 the manufacturer or supplier, including a multijurisdictional  
 689 clearinghouse.

690 Sec. 27. Section 26-192l of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
 691 *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>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section

Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	26-192k
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	26-212
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	26-213
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	26-232
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	26-207
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	26-209
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	26-215
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	22a-903c(a)(30) and (31)
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	22a-903c(f) and (g)
Sec. 27	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section