

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-10—HB 5015

Environment Committee

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPIN-OFF COMPANIES FOR EMPLOYEES OF
THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION**

SUMMARY: This act allows the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) control board to approve a CAES employee's service as a board member of, or compensation by, a start-up company that develops and commercializes a product based on the employee's inventions and discoveries subject to certain conditions. Specifically, (1) CAES must share in the net proceeds from the use of the employee's invention or discovery according to any control board requirements and (2) there must be no active disagreement as to the allocation or use of the invention or discovery.

The act requires the CAES control board to establish policies and procedures so that these employee rights and restrictions are consistent with (1) the rights and restrictions of researchers at public universities and agencies in Connecticut and (2) applicable legal and ethical requirements.

Existing law authorizes the control board to adopt regulations to govern the station's operations. The act further authorizes the board to adopt regulations to implement the act's provisions.

Under existing law, CAES's control board may seek and obtain patents, trademarks, and licensing agreements relating to inventions and discoveries by station employees. The law entitles CAES to own the entire right, title, and interest in any employee's invention or discovery that (1) is conceived in the course of the employee performing customary or assigned duties; (2) emerges from any research, development, or other station program; or (3) is conceived or developed wholly or partly at the station's expense, or with the aid of its equipment, facilities, or personnel. By law, depending on the circumstances, employees may share in the net proceeds of their work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage